FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-060
Thursday
30 March 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-060 CONTENTS *30 March 1989*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 March Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Afairs

Reportage on Arab League Meetings on Lebanon 3
'Aziz on 'Arab Solidarity' *[INA]* 3
League Focuses on 3 Proposals *[Radio Free Lebanon]* 4
Session Announces Resolution *[Beirut Radio]* 4
Iraqi-Syrian 'Friction' *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
Al-Shar' on 'Legal' Presence *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
Iraq Affirms 'Five Principles' *[INA]* 6

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Denies PLO Asked To Stop 'Revolution' *[Sanaa VOP]* 6
U.S., PLO To Follow Up Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Mar]* 7
PLO Delegate to Talks With U.S. Interviewed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Mar]* 7
UK Arab Daily on Palestinian-U.S. Dialogue *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 27 Mar]* 7
Abu Sharif Comments on 'Arafat-Mitterrand Meeting *[Sanaa VOP]* 8
Central Council To Discuss PNC 'Reformation' *[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 30 Mar]* 8
Syria-Based Factions To Attend *[WAKH]* 8

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Monitoring Committee Holds Session 9
Iraqi Minister on Production *[INA]* 9
Iranian Minister on Stability *[IRNA]* 9
IRNA on Committee Tasks 10
Monitoring Committee Adjourns *[Vienna OPECNA]* 10

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

FLN Central Committee Meeting Opens 28 Mar *[APS]* 11
Bendjedid Speaks at Session *[Algiers TV]* 11
'Arafat Comments on Meeting With Bendjedid *[Algiers Radio]* 18

Egypt

Mubarak, Fahd Travel to Alexandria by Train *[Cairo Radio]* 18
Return to Cairo *[MENA]* 19
Mubarak Holds Cabinet Meeting, Discusses Issues *[Cairo Radio]* 19
Ghali Says Foreign Forces 'Must Leave Lebanon' *[RFL]* 19
Ghali on Relations With Ethiopia, Sudan *[AL-MUSAWWAR 24 Mar]* 19
AL-WAFD on Preparations for Al-Mahdi Visit *[28 Mar]* 20
Sudan's Al-Mirghani Arrives for 1-Day Visit *[MENA]* 20
Confers With Mubarak *[MENA]* 20
Al-Mirghani Departs 30 Mar *[MENA]* 21
Ministers Visit U.S. To Prepare for Mubarak Visit *[MENA]* 21

Libya

- Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Tripoli OAU Meeting *[Tripoli TV]* ... 21

Sudan

- SPLA Leader Garang Meets With U.S. Congressmen *[Radio SPLA]* ... 26
- SPLA Enters Kurdufan With 'Earthquake Bang' *[Radio SPLA]* ... 27

Tunisia

- Libya's Al-Humaydi Meets With Ben Ali, Comments *[Tunis Radio]* ... 27
- Legal Standardization Committee With Libya Meets *[Tunis Radio]* ... 28
- Joint Communications Committee With Libya Meets *[JANA]* ... 28
- Youth Committee Protocol With Libya Finalized *[JANA]* ... 28

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

- Official Says Yacht Hijacking Story 'Unfounded' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Mar]* ... 29
- Defense Ministry To Set Up Reservist Brigade *[KUNA]* ... 29
- Oil Exploration Deal Signed With Thailand *[ARAB TIMES 23-24 Mar]* ... 29
- New Labor Law 'May Be Amended' After 3 Months *[ARAB TIMES 25 Mar]* ... 30

Saudi Arabia

- Sultan: Arabs Should Arm To Deter 'Archenemy' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 27 Mar]* ... 30

ISRAEL

- Shamir's Proposals to Bush Not Yet 'Finalized' *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 32
  - Clash With U.S. Feared *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 30 Mar]* ... 32
- Further on 'Land Day' Protests, Disturbances ... 32
  - Gaza Curfew Set; 2 Wounded *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 32
  - Arab Residents Refused Entry *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 32
  - 2 Die in West Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 33
  - 7 Villages Avoid Strike *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 33
  - Update on Incidents *[HA'ARETZ 30 Mar]* ... 33
  - Unrest Casualty Figures Updated *[HA'OLAM HAZE 29 Mar]* ... 33
- Envoy to France on 'Arafat-Mitterrand Meeting *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 34
  - Protests to Dumas *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 34
- Shomron: No Soviet Policy Change in Syria Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 34
- USSR To Release 'Hundreds of Thousands of Jews' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 30 Mar]* ... 34
- Arab Charged With Spying for Stealing Documents *[THE JERUSALEM POST 30 Mar]* ... 35
- Knesset Approves State Budget After 'Showdown' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 20 Mar]* ... 35

LEBANON

- 'Awn Rejects Arab League Proposal on Blockade *[Radio Monte Carlo]* ... 36
- 'Awn Sends Message to Envoys on Syrian Attacks *[RFL]* ... 36
- VOL Reports 'Awn 29 Mar News Conference ... 36
- 'Awn To Buy Arms From Iraq if 'Need' Arises *[AFP* ... 38
- Reportage on Attacks by Syrian Occupation Forces ... 38
  - Rockets Fall in Christian Areas *[VOL]* ... 38
  - Envoys' Houses, Embassies Hit *[VOL]* ... 38
  - 'Violent' Fighting in Beirut *[VOL]* ... 38
  - VOL Updates Casualty Toll ... 38

SYRIA

- USSR Defense Minister Visits Army Units *[Damascus TV]* ... 39
  - East European Sources Comment *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 28 Mar]* ... 39
- Trade Union Leader Meets USSR Counterpart *[Damascus Radio]* ... 39
- Al-Shar' Returns From Arab League Tunis Meeting *[Damascus Radio]* ... 39
- Al-Zu'bi Addresses Assembly on Development Plan *[Damascus TV]* ... 40

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Hikmatyar: Mujahidin Reject 'Peaceful Solution' *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 28 Mar]* ... 44
- Rebel Ammunition, Weapons Seized in Nangarhar *[Kabul Radio]* ... 44
- Kabul Details Military Operations 28-29 Mar ... 44
- Sayyaf on Government Plans, Jalalabad Battle *[Riyadh AL-RIYAD 22 Mar]* ... 45
- UN Notified of Pakistani Accords 'Violations' ... 45
  - Protest Notes 349-351 *[BAKHTAR]* ... 45
  - Protest Notes 352-355 *[BAKHTAR]* ... 45

India

- Reportage on Visit by UK Foreign Secretary Howe ... 46
  - Arrives in Madras 28 Mar *[AFP]* ... 46
  - Arrives in Delhi From Madras *[Delhi TV]* ... 46
  - Comments on Antiterrorism Laws *[Delhi Radio]* ... 46
  - 'No Crackdown' on UK Tamils *[Colombo International]* ... 46
  - Meets With Narasimha Rao *[Delhi Radio]* ... 46
- Troops in Sri Lanka Number 'About 50,000' *[Delhi Radio]* ... 46
- Narasimha Rao Meets With 3 EEC Ministers *[Delhi Radio]* ... 47
  - Terrorism Problem Discussed *[Delhi Radio]* ... 47
- Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Continues Visit ... 47
  - 2 Agreements Signed *[Bangkok Radio]* ... 47
  - Details of Agreements *[Delhi Radio]* ... 47
  - Position on Cambodia Lauded *[Delhi Radio]* ... 47
- PRC Team Arrives for Science Cooperation Talks *[Delhi Radio]* ... 48
- Agreements Signed With UAE, Kuwait To Buy Oil *[Delhi Radio]* ... 48
- Natwar Singh Rejects Area Nonproliferation Plan *[AFP]* ... 48
- Gandhi Holds Meeting on Measures for Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* ... 48
- Sikh Group Calls for Halt in Killing of Hindus *[AFP]* ... 48
- Second Antarctica Expedition Team Returns *[Delhi Radio]* ... 49
  - Expedition Leader Comments *[Delhi Radio]* ... 49
- Navy Trainer Aircraft Crash Kills Pilot *[Delhi Radio]* ... 49

Iran

- 'Source' Denies Arrest of Former UN Ambassador *[IRNA]* ... 49
- Consul in Geneva Returns Home; Accused of Spying *[KUNA]* ... 49
  - Declared Persona Non Grata *[IRNA]* ... 50
- Montazeri's Letter to Khomeyni Led to Ouster *[KUNA]* ... 50
- Press on Montazeri Resignation, State Interests *[IRNA]* ... 50
- Commentary Lauds Khomeyni's Decisive Leadership *[Tehran TV]* ... 51
- Opposition Leader Rajavi Predicts 'Purges' *[Hamburg DPA]* ... 51
- 'Major Purge' of Montazeri Supporters Expected *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* ... 52
- UN's Goulding Meets IRGC Minister Shamkhani *[Tehran Radio]* ... 52
- Commentary Urges World-Wide Pressure on Iraq *[Tehran Radio]* ... 52
- Velayati on Release of 70 Disabled Iraqi POW's *[Tehran Radio]* ... 52
- Velayati To Visit USSR, Meet Shevardnadze *[IRNA]* ... 53
- ICO Delegate Interviewed on Meeting in Riyadh *[London AL-HAWADITH 24 Mar]* ... 53
- Commentary on Pakistani Protests Against UK *[Tehran International]* ... 54
- Prime Minister Urges Islamic Banking Policy *[IRNA]* ... 54

$4 Billion Loan Reportedly Sought From World Bank *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 54
Pardoned Political Prisoners 'Imprisoned Again' *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 54
Drug Traffickers Arrested in Kerman, Tehran *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Drugs Seized, Traffickers Arrested in Provinces *[Tehran Radio]* 55

Nepal

'Emergency Measures' To Counter Shortages *[AFP]* 55
TV Map Shows Part of Jammu, Kashmir in Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 56

Pakistan

Bhutto Interviewed on Rushdie, Nuclear Energy *[Vienna DER STANDARD 25 Mar]* 56
Air Force Chief Leaves on Visit to PRC 30 Mar *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Commentary Praises Results of Howe Visit, Talks *[Islamabad Radio]* 58

Sri Lanka

Aid Sought for 1 Million Drought-Stricken People *[Colombo International]* 59
Security Forces Placed on 'Maximum Alert' *[Delhi Radio]* 59
    Troops Raid Hideout, Kill 7 *[AFP]* 59
Police Arrest 20 'Subversive' Murder Suspects *[LANKAPUVATH]* 60
Security Sources Say JVP Suspected in Killings *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Indian Forces Recover Detonators, Explosives *[LANKAPUVATH]* 60

30 March Middle East and South Asia Review

LD3003130789 [Editorial Report]

NOTICE: FBIS wishes to advise that resource constraints will compel discontinuation of the Middle East and South Asia Review effective 1 April.

Lebanon

Syrian artillery continued to shell the eastern area 29 and 30 March, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, noting that the bombardment targeted the presidential palace, the Defense Ministry, and the homes of various foreign diplomats.

The radio disclosed that 7 people were killed and 27 wounded in the latest bout of shelling.

Meanwhile, General Michel 'Awn described the Syrian Army as a "terrorist" army in remarks carried by the radio. Like other terrorist organizations, it should be confronted by "acts of terrorism," he was quoted as saying. Gen 'Awn claimed his forces are still abiding by the cease-fire and are waiting for a Syrian response.

According to AFP, he also said the Lebanese Army has not yet received arms from Iraq but will do so "if the need arises."

Reporting on the Arab League good offices committee's contacts with the warring sides, Radio Monte Carlo revealed that 'Awn has rejected a proposal by the committee that he lift the blockade on the "nationalist" ports and is insisting on his right to continue the blockade on the basis that he is acting within legitimacy.

However, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' warned that Gen 'Awn's cease-fire declaration is "not sufficient" as he should cancel the measures he has taken which "ignited" the fighting, according to the radio. Al-Shar' indicated that this must include an end to the siege of the ports.

He also contended that Syria's presence in Lebanon is "legal in the full sense of the word" and that Gen 'Awn represents neither all the Lebanese nor even all the Christians. The claim that Syria is taking part in the fighting ignores the "nationalist and Islamic forces" who represent the "overwhelming majority" of Lebanese and who are responding to Gen 'Awn's actions and attacks, Al-Shar' said.

Such justifications of the Syrian presence in Lebanon were criticized by the Iraqi agency INA, which noted that Iraq has issued a statement of principles on Lebanon which contains an affirmation that no Arab state is entitled to enjoy privileges or a special status in another Arab state. Iraq also maintains that the Arab League is the only party entitled to help the Lebanese people overcome their ordeal, INA noted.

Syria

Visiting Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov inspected a Syrian combat unit which carried out a demonstration with live ammunition, Damascus television reported. Meanwhile, East European diplomatic sources cited by Abu Dhabi's AL-ITTIHAD said the Syrians will ask Yazov to improve all types of Syrian weapons.

The chief of Israel's general staff affirmed that a new Soviet-Syrian arms deal providing for the supply of Sukhoi-24 aircraft is "in the works," according to Jerusalem radio.

Israel

An Arab was killed in a clash with Israeli soldiers in Samaria the night of 29 March, Jerusalem radio reported. Another Palestinian was killed in Bethlehem when an unidentified object he was handling in his house exploded.

Meanwhile, Israeli authorities placed the Gaza Strip under curfew and prevented Arabs from leaving Judaea and Samaria in response to calls for violent demonstrations to mark Land Day, the radio noted.

PLO Affairs

Four Palestinian factions based in Syria will attend the PLO Central Council session in Tunis 31 March to "explain their stand" on moves by the PLO leadership following the recent Palestinian National Council session, WAKH reported citing Abu Dhabi's AL-ITTIHAD.

The four groups are the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and the Palestinian Liberation Front.

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, denied that the U.S. Administration has asked the PLO to "stop the revolution," Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio reported. 'Arafat expressed "optimism" over the U.S. stand on the Palestinian question and affirmed the Palestinian people's "determination" to continue the revolution.

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze reaffirmed Soviet support for the PLO's "constructive and realistic" policy during a meeting with Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, TASS reported. After the meeting, 'Abbas gave a news conference in which he averred that the Israeli leadership has "not yet comprehended" the idea of establishing peace in the Middle East, but noted that the PLO is "maintaining contacts with a number of Israeli leaders," according to TASS.

Iran

Iran will release 70 disabled and injured Iraqi POW's for "humanitarian" reasons, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced according to Tehran radio. He added that if Iraq gives up its "obstructionism" with regard to Resolution 598, the remaining POW's will be returned "in the near future."

The Council of Experts foresees no particular problem arising from the resignation of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri from the deputy leadership, according to KAYHAN newspaper cited by IRNA. Montazeri's "lack of firmness" in dealing with "opportunist elements" was "exploited by foreigners," the paper claimed.

Commenting on the resignation, Tehran television stressed Ayatollah Khomeyni's "decisiveness" in "defending Islamic values and interests."

Sources cited by KUNA stated that several provincial governors, military officers, and Friday imams were recently dismissed because of their links with Montazeri. Opposition leader Mas'ud Rajavi predicted "further purges" in the power struggle in Iran, according to DPA.

Algeria

The fact that socialism is not mentioned in the new constitution does not mean Algeria has chosen to abandon it, President Chadli Bendjedid told the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front (FLN) in a speech broadcast by Algiers television.

However, he stressed that socialism and the FLN cannot be "imposed" through the Constitution or by presidential decree, and the new constitution lets the people decide what program they want by electing their representatives and expressing themselves within the framework of a "true democracy."

While noting his personal opposition to a multiparty system in current circumstances, Bendjedid added that if the Algerian people want this, he "cannot object to the desire of this nation."

As for the FLN, the president said the party should start preparing for local elections and adopt a "progressive" program: "Call it socialism, call it social justice, it does not matter." He also urged the FLN to purge its ranks of "opportunist elements" who joined for reasons of self-interest or to promote slogans that are "full of demagoguery."

In this regard, he denounced "so-called militants" who criticize the absence of socialism in the new constitution because they "guaranteed their future" and enjoyed "a great day" in the name of socialism.

In the wake of Bendjedid's address, the FLN announced it plans to hold an emergency congress, Algiers television noted.

Libya and the OAU

The African states should direct all their efforts to achieving the liberation of Palestine and South Africa and should immediately "eliminate" Western military bases from the continent, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared in a speech to the OAU Defense Committee broadcast by Tripoli television.

He also called for the establishment of a collective African defense force.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin commanders based inside Afghanistan rejected President Najibullah's 27 March offer of "local" cease-fires and described the offer as "mischievous" and aimed at "creating a rift" between the guerrillas and their leaders, AFP reported citing the AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS agency.

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, foreign minister in the mujahidin interim government, also rejected Soviet efforts to "pressure" the mujahidin into accepting a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem, Abu Dhabi's AL-ITTIHAD newspaper reported.

As for the military situation, the mujahidin are preparing for another "major onslaught" to capture Jalalabad, AFP reported. Eight hundred missiles and shells were fired on Jalalabad in 1 day recently, according to Kabul radio. The Afghan Armed Forces retaliated by killing 137 "enemy troops."

Western countries are "hindering" the arrival of UN aid to Kabul and "intimidating" airlines which express a readiness to deliver aid, Moscow television reported. Despite this, Aeroflot planes are landing in Kabul "every 2-3 minutes" with "vital commodities."

Inter-Arab Afairs

Reportage on Arab League Meetings on Lebanon

'Aziz on 'Arab Solidarity'

JN2803124589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Tunis, 28 Mar (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, emphasized here today the need to unite political efforts and the efforts of popular and social Arab organizations to end the sufferings of the POW's and reject the Iranian regime's approach to make this humanitarian issue a card for pressure and extortion.

Tariq 'Aziz, chairman of the Arab League Council's 91st ordinary session which began its proceedings here today, said that effective Arab solidarity has shown its success and efficiency during the Iranian aggression against Iraq. He pointed out that the role of the seven-member Arab committee is still required to achieve just and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran.

'Aziz added: The previous phase has witnessed a major event—the type of major event that changes the course of nations' history—that is, the victory which ended the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation and the beginning of the cease-fire phase, which, we hope, will be the prelude to permanent and comprehensive peace.

Tariq 'Aziz added: The recent period has witnessed two very prominent and important events on the path of bolstering Arab solidarity and placing the joint Arab action within the framework of serious and productive action. These are the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union. This responsible and practical approach, demonstrated by the establishment of these two institutions and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] before them, calls for close cooperation among these three Arab institutions under the banner of the Arab League; taking guidance from its charter; and on the bases of the principles on which it was formed in order to strengthen them.

Tariq 'Aziz asserted that these positive events and developments in the Arab situation call, more than ever before, for more vigilance and coordinated and effective pan-Arab action.

'Aziz added: As for the situation between Iraq and Iran and the situation in the Gulf region, there must be adherence to the Arab stands of solidarity which played a prominent role at the side of the Iraqi people's jihad and their great sacrifices to deter aggression and make peace possible. Through a unified Arab stand, Iran must feel our determination to achieve just and comprehensive peace and our rejection of freezing the state of no-war and no-peace.

'Aziz asserted that Iraq's stand on this subject is the Arab stand that believes in just and comprehensive peace, which is based on the principles of international law and good neighborliness. This stand was expressed by the Arab states through their pan-Arab organizations during the past years.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] still constitutes the strongest and most vital factor supporting Palestinian struggle. He added: The intifadah, which has moved the entire world, has become an entrenched and strong fact that can be changed by nobody. Neither terrorism nor maneuvers and deception can change it. It will continue until the Palestinian Arab people's objectives to terminate the occupation and establish their independent, free state are achieved.

He said: We must take practical steps to support the Palestinian Arab people's intifadah. The next months must witness intensive activity commensurate with the greatness of the intifadah.

On the situation in Lebanon, the Iraqi deputy prime minister affirmed that this situation is still abnormal, painful, and even humiliating to the entire Arab nation. He said the situation in Lebanon also constitutes a grave danger to pan-Arab security and to the bases and pillars of modern inter-Arab relations.

He added: After many years of continued Lebanese suffering, the Arab League began to show interest in the situation in this important part of the Arab world and to seek to rectify it. A six-member Arab committee began action in this regard. Now, while this committee is taking the first steps in its mission, fire flares up again and destruction escalates in Lebanon.

Tariq 'Aziz said: Iraq considers the recent escalation in Lebanon as aimed, without any doubt, at foiling the Arab League's efforts to rectify the situation in Lebanon.

He added: We should reject this deliberate extortion and stick to our pan-Arab responsibilties stipulated by the charter and dictated by our pan-Arab obligation, and out of our concern for our pan-Arab security. He said the League is now called upon to strongly stress its support for the mission of the six-member committee to enable it to continue this pan-Arab mission. He said: While affirming this, we must reaffirm the basic principles in relations between Arab countries. These are respect for indepednence and sovereignty, noninterference in internal affairs of any Arab country, and not resorting to force to settle disputes between Arab states.

He said only on these bases can we rectify the situation in Lebanon and save the Arab nation from a new ordeal after the circle of history has positively shifted in favor of the Arab nation after tens years of struggle. [passage omitted]

League Focuses on 3 Proposals

NC2903081289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Citing a Lebanese personality who refused to be identified, AFP reports that the Arab committee is focusing its consultations on three proposals:

First, to join the Syrian forces in Lebanon to other Arab forces and enforce a cease-fire, thus allowing a study of the political aspects of the Lebanese crisis; second, to send Arab observers to Lebanon to supervise the cease-fire in collaboration with the Lebanese Army within an area to be called administrative Beirut, which goes simultaneously with an agreement on the broadlines of political reform; and third, to entrust the Army or the Lebanese security forces with the task of maintaining security in Beirut and to give priority to the election of a new president of the republic.

The Arab committee ended its sessions with the former Lebanese presidents and prime ministers by meeting with former prime minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. The chairman of the committee, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, is expected to report to the Arab League council on the outcome of the committee's consultations at an extraordinary meeting to be held today.

Session Announces Resolution

NC2903152389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Dispatch from Information Ministry team in Tunis]

[Excerpt] This is the Lebanese Information Ministry information team greeting you from Tunis: The Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting on the Lebanese crisis ended at 1500 today. After the meeting, the following resolution was announced:

The Arab League council convened on 29 March 1989 as part of an extraordinary session that began on 12 January 1989 to discuss the Lebanese crisis. After reading a tentative report prepared by the Arab ministerial liaison and good offices committee on the Lebanese crisis, the following was decided:

1. To endorse the tentative report submitted by the good offices committee chairman;

2. To praise the great and arduous efforts of His Excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and their excellencies the committee members in carrying out the tasks assigned them; and

3. To request the committee to continue its tasks and submit its final report to the Arab League council as quickly as possible. The session will remain open to do this.

Earlier, the following statement was issued by the Arab six-member committee:

The Arab League council met under the chairmanship of His Excellency Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, as part of the extraordinary session on Lebanon. The meeting examined a report prepared by the Arab ministerial committee entrusted with contacting the Lebanese parties and exerting goodwill in Lebanon.

At the meeting's outset, His Excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister and chairman of the Arab six-member committee, reviewed a detailed report on the committee's work and its efforts to help bring about an accord in Lebanon and to end the serious security deterioration that emerged in Beirut over the past few days. At the end of its deliberations, the council decided to endorse the report and lauded the efforts of the committee chairman and members and asked them to continue their mission.

After the meeting, committee Chairman Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told reporters that the Arab six-member committee will meet at 1800 today to study the forthcoming stage and ways to resume its work. He said that the entire Arab League council will enable the committee to continue its work in Tunis, Beirut, or in any other place.

Asked about the Arab League council's appeal yesterday and about how the fighting has not stopped in Lebanon and about the best way to reach a cease-fire, Shaykh al-Sabah said: I submitted my report to the Arab League council and I believe that you can obtain the documents and the report to find out what you want.

In response to another question, Shaykh al-Sabah said: We will meet at 1800 today to determine our course of action.

Asked about the possibility that an Arab good offices committee delegation would visit Lebanon, Shaykh al-Sabah said that this is not somewhat possible, but completely possible. [passage omitted]

Iraqi-Syrian 'Friction'

JN2903194889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Mar 89

[George Bashir dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers' council affirmed in Tunis today its support for the six-man committee chaired by [Kuwaiti Foreign Minister] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah in its mission to find an Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis—a solution that will restore Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and independent decisionmaking. The council unanimously agreed on the content of the report presented by the chairman of the committee.

In the report, the chairman of the committee affirmed the concern to continue his mission despite the difficulties and obstacles facing the committee. The report notes the difficulties that prevented the committee from meeting [words indisinct] with the representatives of the political and party leaders in Kuwait. The chairman was forced to postpone this stage and visit Damascus to meet with Syrian officials to remove these difficulties.

The Arab committee concludes its 20-page report by noting the cease-fire violation and security escalation before its recent meeting with the former presidents, speakers of the Chamber of Deputies, and prime ministers in Tunis despite its appeals to cease the fighting.

The committee added that only one party responded to and announced its adherence to the appeal issued by the Arab League Council to the warring sides in Lebanon. This is an indication of the unilateral cease-fire announcement issued by General ‘Awn. The committee saw this as a good omen. However, the committee received new information this morning that the other parties did not respond to the appeal nor did they cease firing. This resulted in more victims and destruction.

At the end of the discussion of the situation in Lebanon, in light of the committee's report, the Arab ministers feared the Iraqi-Syrian friction inside the council because of the situation in Lebanon, particularly after yesterday's statement by [Iraqi Foreign Minister] Tariq ‘Aziz, chairman of the Arab League Council session, and today's statement by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar.

The statement by Al-Shar‘ today was considered a response to the Iraqi minister's statement, particularly his response to the UN secretary general's appeal calling for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. Al-Shar‘ said that the Syrian military presence in Lebanon is legal in the full sense of the word. He said that Prime Minister ‘Awn does not represent all the Lebanese people nor can he speak in the name of legitimate authority at all. Al-Shar‘ stressed during the meeting that Syria's security is derived from Lebanon's security and the presence of the Syrian Army in Lebanon is in light of Syrian security considerations that must be taken into consideration by the Arab ministers' council.

Here, the Iraqi delegation again presented six proposals on the situation in Lebanon in an official memorandum. The memorandum says that Lebanon enjoys its complete national sovereignty and independence and that the geographical and political situation of any Arab country must not be encroached on in any form. The memorandum adds that because all the Arab countries belong to the same nation, they enjoy special relations. Iraq affirms that these special relations among the Arab countries do not give any Arab country special privileges in any other country.

Iraq also affirms in the memorandum that Lebanon is a sovereign decisionmaker in the form of its political and social system and in defining the nature of its relations with the Arab countries. Therefore, Iraq rejects any form of trusteeship in relations among the Arab countries.

A suggestion was made at the Arab League Council to adjourn the session and end the discussion on Lebanon. The council unanimously endorsed the Arab committee's report. Hence, the committee will continue its mission, proceeding with its meeting this evening.

Al-Shar‘ on ‘Legal’ Presence

JN2903202489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] In the wake of the Arab League Council meetings, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar‘ has announced that the council discussed Lebanon and the work of the Arab six-member committee. He added that the council reiterated its support for the offices of the committee chaired by [Kuwaiti Foreign Minister] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Al-Shar‘ said that we asked the committee to continue its efforts and work. He added: I explained, during the meeting, Syria's stand within the historic framework of the Lebanese crisis. The deliberation was relatively long.

Answering a question on the fighting in Lebanon, Al-Shar‘ said: The Syrian side has nothing to do with the issue of stopping the fighting. General Michel ‘Awn's announcement on stopping the fighting is not sufficient; he should also cancel the measures he has taken which have ignited the fighting. Al-Shar‘ added: Gen ‘Awn's cease-fire must be accompanied by a retreat on the measures he has taken whether with regard to the formation of the operations room or with regard to the imposition of a siege on the nationalist ports because they are unilateral measures.

Answering another question, Faruq al-Shar‘ said: The claim that Syria is taking part in the fighting ignores the nationalist and Islamic forces in Lebanon. These forces represent the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people. And these forces are responding to the measures taken by Gen ‘Awn and the shelling he carried out and is still carrying out.

Al-Shar‘ added that evading the Lebanese nationalist forces' demands—through groundless claims and slanders—can deceive nobody. He stressed the decision taken by the Arab League Council is that the Arab committee continues its good offices.

In the first reaction to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's statement on the presence of non-Lebanese forces in Lebanon, Minister Al-Shar‘ said: Syria's presence in Lebanon is legal in the full sense of the word. Gen Michel ‘Awn represents neither all of the Lebanese people nor all of the Christians. Gen ‘Awn cannot speak in the name of the legitimate authority at all. Syria considers Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss‘ government the legitimate government in Lebanon.

The Syrian delegation recorded an understanding of the statement welcoming the launching of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. It says: The Syrian delegation expresses its welcome of the launching of the ACC and Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] as they are established on the basis of the Arab League Charter, the comprehensiveness of Arab solidarity, the reinforcement of the common Arab action, and denunciation of the axes policies. The ACC and AMU are also based on keeping these groupings away from Arab bilateral differences; reinforcing the Arab League's position and role in all fields; adhering to the Charter, its objectives, the Arab Collective Defense Pact, and Arab economic cooperation; expediting the march toward Arab unity; studying formulas for unifying the Arab collective framework; and strengthening national security to confront the Arab nation's enemies, particularly Israel.

Iraq Affirms 'Five Principles'

JN2903195489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA)—The Iraqi delegation to the meeting of the Arab League Council has affirmed five principles with regard to Lebanon, its independence, and full membership of the Arab League.

The Iraqi delegation's assertions were voiced during a resumed session of the Arab League Council meetings on the situation in Lebanon. The session was chaired by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The first of these principles stipulates that Iraq views Lebanon as an independent and sovereign state with its currently existing borders and that Iraq considers Lebanon a full member of the Arab League. The second principle affirms that the geographic status of the currently existing Arab states during pre-independence era should in no way undermine the Arab states' independence and sovereignty. The third principle stipulates that Iraq in no way accepts any claims made by any Arab state conflicting with the aforementioned two principles. The fourth principle states that all Arab states, considering that they belong to one Arab nation, have special relations binding them to each other—relations dictated by common pan-Arab affiliation on the one hand and by geographic proximity on the other. Iraq affirms that these special relations among all Arab states do not entitle any Arab state to enjoy privileges or a special status in any other Arab state.

The Iraqi delegation stressed that the fifth principle stipulates that the Lebanese people, through their legitimate constitutional institutions, must have the sovereignty and the final say on the form of their political and social system and on the nature of their relations with Arab states. According to the last principle, Iraq rejects any form of custodianship in inter-Arab relations and believes that if Lebanon has been suffering for a long time from a difficult crisis paralyzing its unity and its ability to exercise its full rights of sovereignty, then the Arab League is the only party authorized to help the Lebanese people overcome this ordeal, realize unity and sovereignty, and bring about security and stability.

Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian regime's foreign minister, had earlier commented on the report submitted by the chairman of the Lebanon good offices committee. His comment contained too many paradoxes and lies about the reality pertaining to the Syrian stand on Lebanon. Al-Shar' also claimed that his regime must enjoy privileges; and this actually falls within the context of interfering in Lebanese internal affairs and is an attempt to impose custodianship on Lebanon.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Denies PLO Asked To Stop 'Revolution'

JN2903173389 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has reiterated the Palestinian people's principled determination to continue the revolution against Zionist hegemony until they achieve all their legitimate rights and establish an independent state. In a statement published in Cairo today, brother Abu 'Ammar denied that the U.S. Administration has asked the PLO—through the six meetings, the recent dialogue, or through any other side—to stop the revolution. Abu 'Ammar said that what is being reported by the newspapers or any other media are trial balloons to put out a feeler.

Abu 'Ammar expressed optimism over the development in the American stand on the Palestine question. He said the American and Palestinian efforts are considered an important indication because we know the Zionist enemy authorities made several attempts to make America stop the dialogue with the PLO.

Abu 'Ammar affirmed that the Zionist forces have been using—for more than 1 year—internationally-banned chemical gases to confront the popular Palestinian revolution. He noted that two teams of Belgian and American doctors announced irrefutable facts on this. He added that these gases resulted in abortions by 703 Palestinian women, the martyrdom of 674 Palestinian citizens since the outbreak of the revolution, the wounding of 32,000 people, including 5,700 handicapped, and the arrest of 30,000 citizens.

Abu 'Ammar reiterated his call for convening an ordinary Arab summit in Riyadh and an extraordinary Arab summit to face the pressing issues. He said Egypt will attend any ordinary or extraordinary Arab summit after the first session. He refuted the accusations directed against Egypt on producing chemical weapons and the stoppage of American aid in cash. He added that these are political attempts and campaigns embarked on by the forces hostile to Egypt's role inside America, including the Zionist lobby, to curb its international activities.

U.S., PLO To Follow Up Talks

PM3003084989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Mar 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat: Another Round of U.S.-PLO Dialogue Soon"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has confirmed that, following the success of the first Tunis meeting at which the American side was serious and positive, another meeting will shortly be held with the U.S. Administration. The meeting will deal with a number of answers and points on which the members of the Palestinian and U.S. delegations said they wished to consult their respective leaderships.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 'Arafat said the Israeli Mosad attempts to assassinate him were continuing. That, he said, is something that the Israelis always want to carry out against PLO leaders. He pointed out that Israel had already assassinated 67 members of the PLO and its leadership.

'Arafat left Cairo early yesterday (Monday) morning after a 2-day visit to Egypt where he attended the Ismailia tripartite summit with President Mubarak and King Husayn.

PLO Delegate to Talks With U.S. Interviewed

PM3003085089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Mar 89 pp 1-2

[Zaki Musa report: "Replacing Occupation Forces With U.S. Forces Not Discussed at Talks"]

[Excerpt] London, Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—At a news conference held in Tunis yesterday, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "both the Palestinian and U.S. sides have a resolute desire to continue their dialogue and to reach fruitful results."

Meanwhile, contacted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by telephone from London, a Palestinian official denied that the round of talks the evening before last could have broached the question of replacing the Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with U.S. forces.

'Abd al-Latif Abu Hijlah, member of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with the United States and director of the PLO Political Department, affirmed that the question of replacing the occupation army forces with U.S. forces was not discussed at all during the second round of talks, held the evening before last and lasting 4 and ½ hours, and added the meeting was merely an exchange of views between the two sides.

Contacted by telephone by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, Abu Hijlah said that the U.S. side raised numerous issues, such as the possibility of the PLO's accepting direct negotiations with Israel before an international conference is convened, the military operation carried out across Israel's northern borders, and its country's viewpoint on easing the situation in the occupied territories.

The PLO Political Department director said that the Palestinian delegation—headed by PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and including Hakam Bal'awi, the Palestinian state's ambassador in Tunis—raised the question of Israel's repressive practices against Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories and called on the United States to play a role in curbing the organized terrorism engaged in by the occupation army.

Furthermore, the delegation stressed the need for the United States to recognize the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. The Palestinian side stressed that the possible and appropriate formula for resolving the Arab-Palestinian [as published] conflict can be secured through the convening of an international conference under UN auspices attended by the Security Council's five permanent member states.

Abu Ja'far ['Abd al-Latif Abu Hijlah], dialogue committee member, quoted U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau as saying that the dispute between the Israeli and Palestinian sides is a very major one and that the material broached at such meetings is aimed at defining possible ideas to facilitate the process of resolving the intricate crisis.

The Palestinian official pointed out that the U.S. side did not raise the question of halting the intifadah [uprising], as happened at the first round of talks on 16 December. [passage omitted]

UK Arab Daily on Palestinian-U.S. Dialogue

PM3003085589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Mar 89 p 3

[Unattributed report: "U.S. Plan for Conducting Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from well informed diplomatic sources in Cairo that at the second round of dialogue held in Tunis last week the U.S. Administration asked the PLO to ease the situation inside the occupied Arab territories during Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington.

During the talks the U.S. side stressed the U.S. Administration's willingness to intervene with the Israeli Government to get it to take a number of confidence-building measures inside the occupied Arab territories, including the abolition of military decisions, the withdrawal of some Israeli army forces, and the release of Palestinian detainees and prisoners in preparation for holding Palestinian elections inside the occupied Arab territories and the possibility of conducting an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

The diplomatic sources pointed out to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that during the round of talks the U.S. side emphasized that President Bush's administration will pursue a new line in U.S. policy orientations at international forums and organizations vis-a-vis the Palestinian problem.

The sources said that during the dialogue the Palestinian side stressed its readiness to discuss any U.S. ideas raised during the rounds of dialogue on the condition that the U.S. Administration's position on the resumption or nonresumption of the dialogue will not be linked to the Palestinian response, indicating that the PLO is bound by the Arab position, especially that of the Arab parties concerned with the conflict.

Diplomatic reports indicated that the Palestinian response will conveyed to the U.S. Administration during Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington early next month. The U.S. Administration will be urged to raise the dialogue level between the two parties and begin preliminary proceedings for the convening of the international conference.

Abu Sharif Comments on 'Arafat-Mitterrand Meeting

JN2903175489 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, special adviser to brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has said that the French Presidency's announcement on an imminent meeting between French President Francois Mitterrand and brother Abu 'Ammar constitutes an important step forward in the ongoing efforts to bring about a just and permanent peace in the Middle East.

In a telephone contact with AFP in Nicosia last night, brother Bassam Abu Sharif expressed his confidence that the 'Arafat-Mitterrand talks will be very important. He expressed hope that these talks will be crowned with definite proposals to hold meetings among the permanent members of the UN Security Council and to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. He also expressed hope that this meeting would activate the European stand so that Europe would practically support the Palestinian people's resistance against the terrorist occupation in the occupied territory, put an end to it, and establish an independent Palestinian state.

Central Council To Discuss PNC 'Reformation'

JN3003120889 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Mar 89 p 1

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources in Amman have said that the PLO Central Council will discuss during its scheduled meeting in Tunis tomorrow the reformation of the Palestine National Council [PNC] by adding new members to it from Palestinian leaders inside the occupied territories.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, the sources said the council will also discuss the latest developments of the Palestine question on the Arab and international scenes.

The sources stressed that a priority topic of discussion during the meeting, which will be chaired by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, will be the ways to provide all forms of support for the heroic intifadah [uprising] in the West Bank and Gaza so it may achieve its goals, particularly the attainment of the Palestinian right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The Central Council will also discuss the latest developments of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

The council will also hear a detailed report on 'Arafat's visits to several Arab and European countries and his meetings with the leaders of these countries.

The sources added that the council, which meets for the first time after the PNC session in Algiers, will be informed of the future political moves that the Executive Committee plans to make with a view to supporting the intifadah and exerting pressure on Israel and the United States to accept an effective international conference to bring about a just and lasting peace guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Syria-Based Factions To Attend

JN3003082589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Mar (WAKH)—Four Damascus-based Palestinian factions will participate in the PLO Central Council meeting, scheduled to be held in Tunis tomorrow.

The Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD quoted leading Palestinian sources in Damascus as saying that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and the Palestinian Liberation Front will attend the meetings of the council, which is a link between the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestine National Council [PNC].

The sources said that these factions will explain their position on the political moves made by the PLO leadership after the recent PNC meeting.

They added that the factions had prepared a common view of the political moves that need to be taken by the PLO leadership. This view will be presented during the Central Council meetings.

The sources said that moves opposing the PLO leadership's policy will not reach the level of withdrawal from PLO institutions.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Monitoring Committee Holds Session

Iraqi Minister on Production

JN2903125189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1032 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Vienna, 29 Mar (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi has described the move taken by some non-OPEC oil-producing countries to reduce their oil exports by 5 percent as a positive move. He urged the other non-OPEC oil-producing countries to take measures to reduce their oil exports.

In a statement to the press carried by OPECNA, he said that Norway is at the top of these countries and must act in a more positive way, stressing that the non-OPEC oil-producing countries must know that such a step will be in their interest and in favor of market stability and the producers and consumers alike. He also urged some of these countries not to sit back with folded arms.

The minister pointed out that today's meeting of the ministerial control committee is an ordinary, not an extraordinary meeting, adding that during the meeting, the eight ministers comprising the committee will discuss market developments over the past 4 months, the results of the dialogue with the non-OPEC oil-producing countries, and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez' proposal for convening a summit of the OPEC countries' leaders.

'Isman 'Abd al-Rahim also announced that during the visit to Iraq this week by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, he discussed in detail with Hisham Nazir, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources, the situation in the oil market as well as the recent positive developments in the market during the past few days, adding that this is basically due to the OPEC countries' abidance by the agreement which was reached last November as well as the positive attitude and cooperation of some of these countries.

He also said that Iraq has decided to reiterate its support for that agreement because it is the only way to achieve stability and keep prices high for some time. Regarding the 5 percent reducation of oil exports by some non-OPEC oil-producing countries, the minister said that this is a positive development and expressed hope that these efforts will continue.

'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim added that the oil prices have begun to improve since the latest agreement was signed, stressing that the prices will continue as they are for some time, taking into consideration the [word indistinct] demand during the second quarter of this year. Regarding the oil field east of Baghdad which will operate soon, he said that production in this field will be within the framework of Iraq's quota in accordance with the OPEC agreement. He added that the reserve in this field was included in Iraq's overall fixed oil reserve, which amounts to 100 billion barrels.

It is noteworthy that Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi is currently visiting Vienna at the head of an Iraqi delegation to attend the meetings of the OPEC ministerial control committee, which also comprises oil and energy ministers of Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Iran, Venezuela, and Nigeria.

Iranian Minister on Stability

LD2903162789 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Vienna, March 29, IRNA—Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh today said the most important issue for OPEC member states was the stability of the oil market.

Aqazadeh said the 13-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries had achieved price stablity for the first time in three years but that this did not mean Iran was against pushing up prices.

The oil minister was speaking to reporters before a session of eight-nation OPEC Market Monitoring Committee which includes Indonesia, Algeria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Venezuela and Nigeria.

On the likelihood of an increase in the OPEC production ceiling, Aqazadeh said to make any decision, members should wait until the next ministerial meeting due to be held in late spring.

However, he added the stability of prices should be taken into consideration by OPEC members before they could increase the production ceiling.

Algerian Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industry Sadek Boussena, too, underlined the need for the organization to maintain the price stability.

Nine non-OPEC oil countries have announced readiness to cut their crude exports by five percent or 332,000 barrels a day for the second quarter of this year.

OPEC AND non-OPEC experts are to meet in May to explore ways of cooperating to strengthen the international market.

IRNA on Committee Tasks

LD2903172289 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Vienna, March 29, IRNA—Oil ministers of OPEC's eight-nation market monitoring committee sat for a session Wednesday [29 March] afternoon to review the international oil market status and strategies for strengthening the 13-member organization's target of 18 dollars a barrel.

Oil sources here maintain that in view of the current stability of the market, the decision-making tasks will be delegated to the OPEC general session scheduled for June 5, while the committee for its part will try mainly to pave the way and set guidelines for the meeting.

The committee will also revaluate production disciplines, and adherence of members to their assigned quotas. OPEC sources say during January-March 1989 the only member to produce beyond its assigned quota was the United Arab Emirates which produced in excess of 1.5 million bpd [barrels per day] against its official quota of 988,000 bpd.

Iran's quota is 2.640 million bpd, and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said here today that his country observes its production quota. He added that once post-war reconstruction projects have been completed, Iran will be able to produce much more.

Last January non-oil OPEC companies had doubted Iran's capacity to produce beyond 2.5 million bpd, but now believe that the Islamic Republic can produce 3 million-plus bpd of oil.

Meanwhile, Kuwait insists on increasing OPEC's total production to 20 million bpd from the present 18.5, one-third of which margin it wants to share with the UAE and the remainder to be distributed between the other 11 members. The move is likely to be rejected by Libya which has equal quota with Kuwait, that is, 1.037 million bpd.

Nigeria's oil minister and chairman of the monitoring committee, Rilwanu Lukman says the average price of a basket of seven crudes monitored by OPEC was dollars 18.01 on Tuesday.

Fluctuations in oil market prices during the second quarter of the year being foreseeable due to falling demands, the committee will most likely postpone a serious discussion of prices to the upcoming June meeting.

A global increase in demand accompanied by a sharp fall in North Sea oil production and a temporary oil spill in Alaska has pushed prices to a record high during the past 18 months.

Meanwhile oil sources believe that the stockpiling of recently-purchased oil by buyers and oil companies has also had a share in pushing up prices. They argue that once the said reserves are supplied to the markets in the coming months, the market will be glutted and prices likely to be destabilized.

OPEC's monitoring committee is to review the organization's supply and the international demand for OPEC oil this year.

Monitoring Committee Adjourns

LD2903183989 Vienna OPECNA in English 1924 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Vienna, 29 Mar. 89 (OPECNA)—The OPEC ministerial monitoring committee, which met here today for about four hours, has adjourned until Thursday afternoon.

The ministers undertook a review of the oil market and price developments since the November accord.

They also scrutinized the implementation of the OPEC production accord which came into effect on 1 January for an initial period of six months.

The committee was also briefed on the secretariat's assessment of the oil market and future trends.

The monitoring committee, which was set up in November 1988, consists of Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Ecuador is attending the meeting as an observer.

Algeria

FLN Central Committee Meeting Opens 28 Mar

LD2803210889 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers, 28 Mar (APS)—The proceedings of the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee extraordinary meeting were opened this morning, Tuesday, by Abdelhamid Mehri, FLN secretary general. The agenda includes the evaluation of the current situation and a definition of future horizons.

Bendjedid Speaks at Session

LD2903065589 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1919 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Speech by President Chadli Bendjedid at the opening session of the National Liberation Front Central Committee extraordinary session on 28 March in Algiers—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brothers, members of the Central Committee: We meet today at this session, the extraordinary session which is indeed extraordinary in view of the developments and changes resulting from the latest profound reforms. We in the Central Committee are required to clarify the vision of the future, and not just for the National Liberation Front [FLN]. This way party members will know the correct direction of the premise of the program which will be presented by the Central Committee as a preliminary discussion draft paper until the extraordinary congress is held to determine matters, as is the hope of all FLN members and the citizens in general.

Of course, Algeria has embarked upon major and deep changes in the economic, political, and structural fields since the beginning or end of 1987 to 1988 and until this day. On this occasion today, I am not reminding you of the past. We must all study the shortcomings of the past in order to consolidate the basic and immovable principles in relation to the horizons and the future. This is what I said at the Sixth FLN Congress. At the time, the understanding of the horizons was perhaps different from one party member to another. Also there were those who intentionally distorted and corrupted the real concepts I announced, and I was frank and clear in what I said and about the undertakings I made so that it would be understood by everyone. I am not ready to make undertakings to individuals or groups. I made and will make commitments to the nation and to the principles and the constants of the FLN, today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow.

I will still remain with the FLN when one day I become an ordinary citizen, the basic principles of the FLN will be clear to all. Therefore, I said that proceeding from these transformations and proceeding from the matter to which I committed myself at the sixth congress, this is the way I understand the commitment because the rank and file have been pressing for them to happen for years.

You all remember under various circumstances that there have been viewpoints from the majority of the members who want conditions to be reformed and prospects to be clarified. This is because we are living through major transformations in this world. Algeria is bound to keep pace with these transformations. This does not mean that these transformations or changes are imposed on us politically or economically by foreign organizations.

This is the belief of the political leadership. You all remember this. Our conviction has been that instead of them imposed on us like in many other countries, we said that we must solve our problems and should have enough political courage to introduce the necessary reforms so that we can control our economic, political, structural, and other affairs.

This is the belief we all hold. Of course, I announced this at the sixth congress. At end of the congress I remind my brothers, I directed my speech to the members and through them to all the militants and citizens. I said I understood when you placed your confidence in me and nominated me for this important state position that I would carry out political reforms the way I understand them. I already said this at the sixth congress and before the sixth congress.

I purposely used those words so that everyone would understand that I am not someone who is after the post. I have never been someone who is only interested in posts. I have always adhered to my principles. I asserted then that I took the trust put in me and my candidature for the presidency as a commitment to implement the principles I have mentioned in all fields. The understanding was therefore my commitment before the nation. I had spoken before the congress was convened on various occasions and pointed out the shortcomings as well as other things about the October events which some brother officials of the Central Committee understood as encouragement for the riots, but I only told the truth. I told the truth about the nation's economic and political situation. This is a fact no one can falsify, distort, or ignore. Thus, this is my understanding of the duty the people and the FLN entrusted me with.

We have been hearing here and there things being said about the future of the FLN, about abandoning the FLN and about choosing other systems or things, which I am not sure of. These have been sneaked into the FLN by some individuals for personal reasons, individuals who are giving more interest to their posts, which have become part of their gains. They are afraid of losing their posts if democracy is implemented, even inside the FLN itself, a matter which would lead to the clarification of vision among FLN members, members who are really competent and who really do believe in its principles, members who struggle for the sake of the FLN cause and not to gain material things or posts. The latter cannot be described as real members. He who joins the FLN to gain material things cannot be described as a real militant. He is a hypocrite. [applause.]

This is what dialogue and arguement have become. I am not accusing the FLN grass roots. Maybe the lack of a clear vision has led to some confusion in the minds of the majority of the sincere militants who are committed to the FLN principles and constants. Therefore, we say here to those people: We do not need a lesson on FLN principles—the fundamental principles that have nothing to do with demagogy. They are part of our beliefs and will remain our political program whether we are in power or outside it. We will always believe in these principles. Therefore we say to the sincere sons of the FLN, please stop the Byzantine arguement, the hollow Byzantine arguement, and please do not let us leave the scene to the other elements that want to harm the FLN. They have always harbored rancor against the FLN. We assert on this occasion to anyone who doubts the role of the FLN, whether he likes it or not, that thanks to this solidarity and this strong elite we have contributed to the national development and we have realized historical and colossal projects for this homeland.

On the other hand, we should admit that there have been shortcomings, shortcomings which were the result of a number of factors, among which may be our lack of experience and other things. However, we thank the FLN for the position Algeria has reached today, a position of which we should be very proud whether at the economic, social, or even the political level. Therefore, let us give up this Byzantine dialogue and discussion inside the FLN and among its main forces.

Of course people have been asking about the political reforms of the Constitution. People have been talking and an the atmosphere is being created with talk. People and members have been accustomed to seeing basic issues thrashed out by members and at the grass-roots level. As an official—and I say this first out of my responsibility as an official and president of the FLN and my responsibility as president of the republic—I say this to all the sons of the nation without exception, including the people who voted against my nomination to the presidency of the republic. By virtue of being in this position I bear my responsibility as president of this nation without exception.

I thought long about this matter, this basic and sensitive document, and I consulted some of the brothers inside and outside the establishment. I arrived at the belief that the Constitution we see fit for this nation should be a constitution of law, one that stands as a judge between the institutions and Algerian society, a constitution free from a political program. Consequently, we are going to get different voices. Each one calls in his own voice and opinion. Someone says that the Constitution should be like this and another says that the Constitution should be like that. Thus, we end up in the middle of these contradictions and various demands and wishes.

In the name of the Liberation Front and in my own name I shoulder their responsibility. However, my hope was that I did it for the sake of the reputation of the FLN, which supervises all the fundamental and necessary reforms for this nation. I said, regarding all this, that we must not put forward a diversified constitution just to satisfy this one or that one, a constitution with contractions that would become apparent at the time of its implementation. If we did this, we would give a part to everyone and keep him silent to gain people, but we would create contradictions within the official laws of the Algerian state and contradictions in the minds of the Algerian nation.

I gathered a large group of cadres and educated people of this nation and I also contacted officials from all sectors of mass organizations at various levels to find out their viewpoints and give my opinion. This was essential for the sake of deep and radical reform of the fundamental laws of this nation. As I said, I shouldered my responsibility and put forward this draft Constitution with all sincerity for the benefit of the country, no more no less. Naturally, the response from the majority of Algerian people was for these reforms and this 1989 Constitution despite the fact that, and I stress this, many elements deformed the fundamental principles brought about by the Constitution and created doubts in the minds of people and militants. These elements come from all social groups, I stress, even inside the FLN, to be clear and sincere.

I anticipated this, but I thought, the people are sovereign. The Constitution in the future will be the element of arbitration in all fundamental issues which we will refer to. Thus, as I said, the response of the majority of Algerian people was yes and today it has become the Constitution of the Algerian nation.

Let us go back a bit and talk about the role of the Liberation Front in all the changes in the Constitution. What has changed as far as the FLN is concerned? Authority is in the hands of the FLN. Who are the members of the National People's Assembly? As far as I know they are the sons of the FLN. Where do the members of the Government come from? They are from the members of the Central Committee and the militants of the FLN. As for the government's program, regrettably the national press sometimes...[Bendjedid changes thought] cannot be the program of one person or a group of persons. The program of the FLN is all of ours, we in the National Assembly and the government, we the sons of the FLN, despite the fact that as president of the republic, as I said at the beginning, my feelings, sentiments, and adherence are with the FLN.

I recall the history of the sixties and the seventies when the FLN was the party of the executive boodies. I am speaking with full knowledge of these things as I was in the leadership. Where is the authority that was with the Liberation Front? I am not insulting history or the past, I am only recalling it in all faith.

When did the FLN come to power? The FLN has been in power since the fourth congress. From that date, the decisions and orientations of national development and the policy of the Algerian state started to be defined by the FLN through the congresses and meetings of the Central Committee. So what has changed? If the thing that has changed is that some people are against democracy, then the issue must be put forward. We did not come with authority or accept authority to oppress the people. We have come to practice authority within the context of the law.

We believe in practicing democracy—genuine democracy and not an anarchist one. Therefore, we say that the FLN is in power. The program which is being implemented this year is the FLN program. Thus if the FLN wants truly to continue having the final say, then it should rule the field—the political arena and the field. It should impose its presence and viewpoint through a clear and unchanging program, a program that is approved by the Algerian people through its representatives at the elected councils. From now on the basic affairs will be decided in elected councils, whether it is a matter that concerns a municipality or a province, or at a national level.

Today we have granted them wide power. They express the FLN program as a majority, in this case everyone. Also a program should be drawn up on the concerns of their electors at the grass-roots level and should be implemented in the field if we want the FLN to truly have the final say in the future of the country in all spheres. What exists today has already happened and we must not waste time on it.

In this framework we must be frank with ourselves if we make mistakes at various levels. When we do wrong it is because we feel that there is generally no watchdog or a guide—I say it officially—over the work of all these bodies. The party is in power. The government is the government of the FLN and the assembly, but we have closed the doors against criticism or other views. I did not mind so much because I thought that this was a stage that we had to go through. But today the Algerian people are politically mature and therefore we must open the way for all the people to express themselves within the framework of a true democracy.

This is the right direction if the FLN wants to be in power with the will of the people and thanks to a clear program. Nobody will challenge it as it will be in power thanks to the will and desire of the grassroots and thanks to its lasting program which will enable it to win a majority of seats in the various assemblies. This is the future. I say in all frankness that we cannot continue to impose socialism or the FLN through the articles of the Constitution or through a presidential decree. We must impose ourselves in the field if we really want to be in charge and win the confidence of the people through the FLN militants who assume their responsibilities in the elected assemblies and at other levels.

Some people say that the Constitution does not mention socialism and ask where is the socialism, as if we had sacrificed it and chosen a capitalist system. The Constitution has not chosen any system or any political program. It has left it to the will of the people to choose the program which helps the Algerian nation through its representatives in the various seats of power, especially in the elected assemblies. Socialism cannot be imposed by an article in the Constitution or by a presidential decree. Socialism is imposed by the will of the people. It is they who impose it through their representatives.

Who said that the FLN has abandoned socialist principles? But the article in the Constitution which stipulates social justice is in my opinion stronger that the word socialism. Socialism is a means to achieve social justice—no more and no less. But social justice is really one of the constant principles of the FLN and of this nation. Some say that free medical care does not exist any more. I reply to some things which might have been distorted by some elements or which might appear ambiguous to the simple citizen.

Preventive medicine is the responsibility of the state, but we have left the rest to the law. Why have we left it to the law?

All right, tomorrow the law decides. It is sovereign. All right, the state shoulders its responsibility for medical treatment for those with low incomes and the needy. This does not mean dropping free medicine, but why should those who have money vie with poor people for hospital space when the country is facing an economic crisis? They, at least, should pay. This is social justice as I see it. This benefits the working class for which the law provides free medical treatment. As for those who have, may God give them more, let them contribute along with the Algerian state.

On the issue of education we said that elementary, basic, and vocational education should be provided. As for the rest, the law is not clear.

Let the law clarify. We give the same understanding to education as a whole. All right, the state shoulders the responsibility for educating the sons of the poor, from elementary to secondary education. But if there are people who have the capability, why should they not contribute to their own education? Why should the people who have money not contribute along with the state? This is social justice. If we divide the financial resources of the state among the poor and rich alike, I believe this represents an imbalance of a lack of understanding of what constitutes true social justice. The state is built on the everone's efforts.

On the issue of housing we included in our previous constitution the principle of housing for all. Have we achieved this? Thus we pronounce the same method, direction, and philosophy with regard to housing. All right, tomorrow the state takes responsibility for providing social housing for people on low incomes. Why should those who have money vie with those who do not have the capability to build a home? All right, those who have the capability can go and build for themselves. Get building materials and build. Why should they vie with people who cannot built their own houses? At least the state is able to meet the needs of this section of Algerian society whose incomes do not allow them to save or to build a home. This is the true and correct understanding I give to this constitutional article. Of course, the law will clarify all this.

As far as societies of a political nature are concerned, I say it here—Yes, I said it at the congress and I want to confirm it, but I said it as an individual, as a person—I do not believe in a multiplicity of parties in the current circumstances, but if the Algerian people want this, I cannot object to the desire of this nation. We intentionally said that societies of a political nature could exist. Why? Becuase we opened the door within the context of the FLN, by dropping Article 120 or 121, to allow all people who want to enter the FLN to do so. All right, what if those people say to you: We want to enter the FLN as a group, not as individuals. We have been in existance for a long time?

This is a fact. In the past, we used to call them the opposition. Today we can call them societies or political parties. They existed in the 1960's, the 1970's, and the 1980's. Why deny reality? They exist, but we used to deal with them by other means, which you all know—prison and various other methods. Is this the solution? I say no, this is not the solution. We should deal with problems as citizens who differ in opinions. But we cannot continue with this method, which does not in reality lead to good and which divides this nation.

Instead of working in secret, you should present yourself to the whole Algerian people and say: I am the victim of the regime's oppression, thereby winning the citizens' sympthy exploiting the regime's shortcomings and coming out with a political program to deal with the shortcomings. This is how they win the sympathy of the people. Instead of using oppression against this group of citizens, I give them freedom to express themselves.

Why is the FLN afraid of a multiplicity of parties? Perhaps we do not have confidence in ourselves! Anyone who lacks self-confidence and confidence in the FLN fears. But those who know the FLN's abilities and capabilities, which are sufficient to confront all these elements, these so-called parties, and each of them sings their own song, know it is capable of confronting them and of remaining in power with the will and struggle of its members and the Algerian people. The Algerian people now have and will continue to have confidence in the FLN.

The FLN has proved itself in the liberation revolution and in the construction revolution. But we as sons of the FLN should not live in the past. So we all belong to the FLN, but we should say the FLN today and tomorrow, as every decade and new generation appears. We should teach these generations not to rely on history. I believe in the FLN's capability to be in control, and on this basis we have defined of course, this principle.

These elements say that they want to join as a group. Okay, we must give them the legal framework, because if we do not give them the legal framework, tomorrow we will not allow them to operate, as a group, alone or under the umbrella of the FLN. Therefore, if we really want to talk about the rule of the law, the law must prevail in all spheres. There should be no ambiguity. By what right do I have not to allow them to set up a political association and be active? The law will of course forbid them to do so. On the one hand we open a window and on the other we close a door. We say that these elements exist and have existed for a long time.

Instead of letting them live on the fringes as if they were the victims of a regime, let them come out into the open and let everybody speak and defend their opinions. This will help to set in motion a political, economic, and cultural movement in all spheres. In other words, we should not remain rigid and say that things are all right, because with the absence of incentive or with the absence of public criticism in terms of what we call parties or associations, we say that things are okay in our country, and we carry on as normal and we say things are all right. Let us do something about this. Maybe people will point out the shortcomings we are not aware of. We are only human. Therefore I see no contradiction in the things I have said with regard to the pledges I made to the FLN at the sixth congress, and I pledged before the nation to implement political reforms in the widest sense possible.

I am dwelling on this topic to clarify it because perhaps this point or clause concerning the associations with political character has created talk, deformations, and needs an explanation. However, I say that this is the meaning I give and this is the right meaning of the clause concerning the creation of associations with political character, which would start to carry out activities within a legal framework. I said, if somebody fears democracy that is something else. I do not agree with anybody who is against democracy, whether he is from the Liberation Front or not. Democracy must be practiced at all levels, even inside the Liberation Front and between the militants of the Liberation Front. For this reason, I say the Liberation Front is in power. Its militants are in power whether they are in the legislative or the executive body. Let us safeguard this through field work and close the ranks of the Liberation Front in the wide sense, not only the militants of the Liberation Front but also the mass organizations, because we have a common destiny.

In order to be clear, I will stress that when somebody says that when the clause in the constitution talks about socialism this means those who want to be more socialist than us, I am among the people who became tired, and who built and believed in real socialist building, not the demagogic type. One does not at the end of his life start to turn around and choose other directions.

I will say to the brother militants and to the mass organizations: Be wary of deformations and the creation of doubt. All this is premediated in order to divide the ranks of the Liberation Front and the mass organizations. I do not say the Liberation Front's mass organizations, but I say the mass organizations. In accordance with the latest resolutions of the congress, the mass organizations started, naturally, to have autonomy. However, we understand that we are all the sons of one nation—the militants of the Liberation Front. Be wary of deformation and misinformation. We must control the field and explain the policy and program of the Liberation Front in the field, primarily to the militants and the citizens.

This meeting of ours is within this framework. On this occasion I would like to note some of the conditions with which we are familiar in the arena of socioeconomic and other problems, particularly the strikes. Yes, in the Constitution we laid down this principle. We said the right to strike is permissible until the law is drafted. But against whom is the strike held? It is against the public sector, the state sector, and consequently the general public. If there are going to be strikes in this anarchic way I do not accept them and do not support these backward ideas. But I do believe in organized strikes such as those held in some civilized states.

I am not saying that the workers have no problems and troubles. They have. The institutions concerned must engage in dialogue, and you all know that I am a man who believes in dialogue. I have long been talking about dialogue. Instead of raising the problems in the arena you must first engage in dialogue and convince one another. If these workers have a grievance we must give them their due. They should not pay for the weakness or the inability of the managers who have perhaps failed in managing the affairs of their institutions, particularly within the new framework, the independence of the institution. All officials, especially managers of institutions such as the board of directors and others like them, should be aware of things and study all the problems. They must not wait until problems begin. If there are any problems they should be tackled before they reach the extent of a strike. This means that we should choose the right time.

There should be basic transformations at all levels and basic changes in all sectors at the time of an economic crisis. We must raise all problems, even though some of these problems are rather exaggerated. I tell the brother officials in the mass organizations in general: You are officials and you have a role to play in this direction to be in control and explain the dimensions of these measures, decisions, and the position of the state, in general. In addition, we ask the officials of the economic and administrative bodies to bear full responsibility in dealing with the real problems which the working sector knows.

We have also recently seen some phenomena concerning agricultural workers, or landowners, or those who were affected by the previous reforms in relation to the agrarian revolution. Every Tom, Dick, and Harry has begun to bring us the files of 1962-63. If we start going back, we will perhaps return to the era of colonialism. Thus we say clearly in relation to nationalization: In the aftermath of exploitation this matter is settled. [applause] It is finished.

The time of the nationalizations during the agrarian revolution and the people who received compensation from the state are finished. The land became the property of the state. For those who have still not received compensation there are committees in the various provinces and the government is under obligation. Those who have rights can turn to the law. When the law rules that the property of a person whould be returned, the law is the master, it is above all. But it deals with each case individually, and we give the right to those who have the right. The law is the arbitrator in this sphere.

In addition we notice certain behavior, the use of violence to persuade people by force. I say we cannot be lenient with this, no matter what cover is used by this person or organization. Within the framework of the law, we by no means accept this and will not allow such excesses, irrespective of the pretext. All right, the one who wants to persuade amicably is free, but we reject the use of violence, and we will not accept it and will not be lenient on this.

Instructions will be given in this field to the concerned services. If we really want—and here I will address all citizens in your name—to make this experience in the practice of true democracy succeed, all of us have to protect it. If we were not up to events, perhaps one day the state will—I say this with all sincerety as I am a democrat and I believe in democracy—be forced to adopt measures and to confront with violence those who advocate violence. Today we have opened the door. If some one wants to speak, he may do so. He is free.

If some one wants to write, he may do so. Thus, what is the benefit in the use of violence? I stress that we will respect, and the state will respect the legal texts with regard to the full content of the Constitution and the clarifications concerning the laws of the People's National Assembly. However, I ask everybody to respect them. Anyone who trespasses these legal boundaries will face legal measures. We will stop anyone who wants to trespass on legal boundaries. In this context justice, thanks to its autonomy, must play its role and will never be lenient with regard to violations of the laws of the Algerian state.

We also opened the door as far as associations of a cultural or social character and charitable associations are concerned. However, in this respect there is a bill that is to be put forward in the assembly to make this view very clear. Naturally, as far as culture is concerned, it is the treasure of all Algerian people. We have and will support the diversified culture of the Algerian nation. However, you should choose whether to go this way or that. For culture we will say yes, but for culture-politics we will say no. Thus, if someone wants to use the sentiments of the people under the cover of culture, and then create problems and divide the nation, this is constitutionally unacceptable. I always say, and I weigh my words when I say I will not trespass on my statements and standpoints regarding the legal and constitutional texts in general.

This is an opportunity for me to discuss an issue concerning the National People's Army relinquishing its Central Committee membership. I believe, and all the brothers and sons of the National Liberation Army, who are the present commanders of the Liberation Front, but conversely, facilitates the Liberation Front's mission, I believe that it is a wise and historic decision, which makes us proud of the reputation of our Armed Forces. Out of respect for the people, they asked me this question and naturally I agreed on the principle. I believe this is a service to the Liberation Front and to the nation, and that the National People's Army will remain the army of the entire Algerian nation and the protector of its boundaries, territory, and integrity. Naturally, it will contribute, as it is doing today, to building the national economy.

Before I finish with this topic, I will tell the brothers, the Central Committee members, and the militants of the FLN it is high time that we carry out effective mobilization and be present in the field to give ample explanations for the principles which will be submitted by the FLN congress for the view to be clear. This is everyone's mission. Naturally it is the mission of the FLN militants, the dynamic forces of the nation, the People's National Assembly because its members are all sons of the Liberation Front. It is the mission of the executive body, the government, because it implements the Liberation Front program so that we will be clear in this direction. Thus due to the total mobilization of all the sincere sons of this nation who have total conviction in the principles and fundamental bases of the Liberation Front, remote from all demagoguery and other things, we will win the battle in all spheres.

The role of mass organizations is to contribute in all spheres, or taking the case of the Liberation Front as a family adhering to the FLN program. There must be a commitment between the mass organizations and the FLN militants to divide the roles so that we will win the battle for democracy which we started. This democracy must be practiced at all levels and in all bodies, particularly the elected ones. I am not talking about the elections of the councils in which there are particular laws, but I would say within the FLN, the mass organizations, and the various professions.

Thus I would like the brothers to know the stages and developments, and I believe that there is a benefit. There is a benefit in the practice of democracy among workers themselves, youths, war veterans, and all social groups and organizations. I believe that in this practice there is beneficial for the stability of mass organizations and of course benefits the country as a whole. We will be able to create with it stability, coordination, and responsible dialogue between the executive bodies, the mass organizations and the FLN. Through all this I say that this will be the common denominator in the future between the FLN militants one the one hand and all the groups that agree with the views and FLN program.

We must formulate a clear program which will take into account all the principles and main bases of the FLN. But such a program should steer clear of demagoguery and empty slogans. It should be a progressive program stemming from the fundamental principles of the national charter and our fundamental options. Call it socialism, call it social justice. It does not matter. But we must say that we will safeguard the main gains achieved thanks to this nation's long efforts over 27 years. These years have been written in golden letters with the FLN and its role, whether the people like it or not. Therefore I say: It is time to close the ranks. [preceding sentence in French]

This program, which will be discussed by the Central Committee and drafted in a preparatory form, and put to the grass roots. The discussions will be open between the real militants of the FLN, and at the same time this will be a project which the Central Committee will put before the forthcoming congress. Thus, this program will become the established and clear program of the FLN with regard to future perspectives. We welcome all those who want to share our opinions. The other groups, those who want to have other programs, are free to do so, but this freedom lies in a respect for the laws, and this applies also to the FLN in order to be fair.

That is why I wanted to stress this point. The FLN has no other option. It has only one option with which to succeed. It is bound to succeed if it knows, along with its militants, how to behave and to hold sway. And if it knows, as I said, how to avoid the Byzantine dialogue and how to clean its ranks within the FLN of the opportunist elements who joined it for the sake of gains or posts or maybe for other reasons which we all know. They joined it also to play the tune of socialism and to bring slogans which are incompatible with the real and true concept of socialism, because these slogans are full of demagoguery.

We hear talk deploring the absence of socialism within the Constitution. This may come from people who, in the name of socialism, have guaranteed their future and that of their children. I tell you this. And they deplore the absence of socialism. We have been living together for many years, from the revolution for liberation to the revolution for construction. We know one another, and these people cannot mislead us. They had a great day in the name of socialism. Some of them have left the party and others are still inside. But these people could care less whether the FLN wins or loses.

They are not concerned if the FLN is swept away as they have guaranteed their future. They will take out the money and with their children they will use it to live, and they do not care. However, they like to exaggerate their eagerness to protect the FLN more than others. So, we say to the brother militants: Beware of these so-called FLN militants. It is time that—within the framework of preparations for the congress—committees were created to monitor the grass-root elections for the renewal of the Kasmates [structure within the party grouping several cells] and the bodies in general in preparation for the forthcoming congress. This will be an opportunity which will enable the real miliants to purge these opportunist elements who have joined the party for their own interests.

This is, on the whole, what I wanted to talk about because I am taking this opportunity to clarify issues or points which need clarification. So today I believe that the only thing left for the FLN and its militants is action. I call on the brother grass-root officials, the heads of the Muhafadates [party structure at the provincial level] and the mass organizations to inform the militants that this is my ambition, my desire, and my will.

Some say that the president is thinking of creating a party. How can a man at the end of his life do this? What sort of party and what program could he have? I am sincere. For me the FLN is a sacred thing, and I am not being courteous. This has been a long life. I was 22 when I joined the FLN and the ALN [National Liberation Army]. There can never be a divorce. It is impossible. But I also say that I am not committed to the people and the groups which have rigid ideas. These brothers should not be slow in assimilating the changes and the developments in the world because they are tiring themselves and tiring us. They are also tiring all the militants. Let us understand one another. Know that I will never abandon nor accept the abandonment of the fundamental principles of Algeria's options. This will never happen.

This does not mean, however, that by not mentioning socialism in the Constitution we have chosen to abandon it, as some foreign press reports have said in order to distort facts, reports which regrettably might have had some effect on Algerian cadres. We have left the people free to express their will. If the people want socialism, let them elect socialists as their representatives to the constituent bodies, particularly the People's National Assembly. Let them choose a program. I hope that the FLN program will be a progressive one, a program that will take into consideration all the gains achieved by the FLN over the past 27 years. Let us forget about its achievements during the war of liberation. This will be our program.

However, we should be careful not to fall victim to empty mottos and demagogic methods, which would lead the FLN to lose its credibility with citizens. We want to gain the citizens' trust in order to sincerely represent their real preoccupations and without committing ourselves to something we cannot deliver, thereby giving citizens, or anyone else, the opportunity to criticise us. Give someone the opportunity to say: Look at them! They promised a lot of things, but they have delivered nothing. Yes, this will be the program of those social segements and political societies and parties. Their program will be based on the weak points in our management, no more, no less.

They cannot bring about more than we can, nor can they deliver anything that might compete with the FLN program. [applause] Let us look at our work in the real world. Let us look at who is working in the field in a democratic manner. Well, let us open the doors to them in order not to allow them to say: Look at your officials! Look at how they oppress, assassinate, torture, and imprison us. Look at how they live! Well, is it not better to give them the opportunity to speak out?

The FLN should speak out too. You should not remain silent. You must speak out on every occasion. You have the freedom to do so. Every one of you should speak on the FLN's clear program. You have the mass media open to you, television and every other medium. You should use them in order to answer these elements. You should not remain silent in the future. If you are committed to the FLN, you should say so. You should say: This is my opinion. This is the opinion of the FLN. Of course, it should be the FLN's opinion and not your own. However, if someone chooses to remain silent, and by remaining silent leaves the stage empty, and then complains about it, this is not the time for making complaints. You should express your stance and criticize him the way he criticizes you.

Sometimes someone will come out and criticize the political system without naming the FLN. But who is in power? It is the FLN. Therefore, he is criticizing the FLN. Why should I not then criticize him? We should uncover his past. I do not want to talk here about some who are coming out with a program. I think I should remain calm here and not go any further. However, we can, we have the capabilities, and we are able to impose them. That is the FLN's opinion in the arena on the condition that we move. Enough of gossip, Byzantine discussion, casting doubts, etc. Thus, since we all are convinced, the members of the FLN are convinced of the practice of democracy, let us practice it as it should be, with all its foundations. Among those foundations is allowing others to speak. Thus, allowing others to speak means that we must give them a legal framework, and I see the legal framework in the method we came out with in relation to Article 40. This is the basis.

This, brothers, is what I wanted to say on this occasion. There is no doubt that this meeting of ours will be very useful in clarifying the vision, and particularly for coming out with a clear, firm, and responsible program, so that the members understand and explain it, and adopt all its principles among the citizens. We all know that we are approaching local elections at the end of the year. Thus, the FLN and its members should start preparing themselves now.

We should not despise municipal and provincial councils. They have authority and influence. If the FLN were absent from these basic elected councils, it would be an indication that one day we will loose, even at the central level. Therefore, we say if there is real rallying around the FLN program and preparation for the selection of competent candidates, candidates that enjoy the citizens' confidence and shoulder their responsibility in the name of the FLN, and if we occupy or at least rule the majority in the basic elected councils, there is no doubt that matters will become easy and we will overcome our problems.

I hope that we will speed up this program so that we can hold the congress soon and devote ourselves to the many other tasks. Thank you, and God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

'Arafat Comments on Meeting With Bendjedid

LD2903134689 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] At the Presidency this morning, President Chadli Bendjedid received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Algeria earlier this morning. On his departure from the presidential office, 'Arafat made a statement to our colleague, Fatma Zouhra Arrous, in which he said:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] I am pleased to have had this good meeting at this historic and fateful time through which the Palestinian issue and the issues of the Arab nation are passing. I have thanked the president for this fraternal, committed, and constructive stand by Algeria, the country of 1 and ½ million martyrs, this true fraternal stand with their Palestinian mujahidin brothers and with the people of the intifadah [uprising] in order to bring about greater confrontation against Israeli persecution until the termination of the Israeli occupation—God willing—so that we may pray together at the first of the two qiblas ["sacred places"; the first being Jerusalem and the second of the two qiblas being Mecca] and at the third holy mosque [the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem].

Since the president is the current chairman of the Arab summit and because of the distinguished relations between the peoples and leaderships of the PLO and Algeria, I naturally acquainted him with all the developments in connection with the Palestinian question, including details of the U.S.-Palestinian meeting held recently in Tunis, as well as the excellent meetings that took place between His Majesty King Husayn and myself in Ismailia to roll forward the wheel of peace and to prepare for an effective international conference under UN auspices, in which the UN Security Council permanent members and all parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO, will participate.

The Ismailia meeting was held to prepare for the visit to the United States to be made by the Arab leaders, beginning with President Mubarak and continuing with King Husayn and the rest of the brother Arab leaders, and to prepare a single Arab stance in the face of all situations and developments. I also put the president into the picture concerning current developments inside our occupied territories and the courageous and blessed stance of our masses, women, and children in confrontation with the Israeli persecution machine and its escalation of the iron fist policy.

In addition, I thanked the president for Algeria's efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere, including Palestinian-Syrian relations, by which Algeria strives to attain a single Arab stance from which to confront our nation's enemies.

[Arrous] Mr Yasir 'Arafat, what stage has the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue reached?

['Arafat] I put the president into the picture with regard to these details, but I can say that this dialogue that took place recently was the first official session between us and the new U.S. Administration. True, meetings at the ambassadorial level did take place before, during the time of the new U.S. Administration, but the recent meeting was the first official one. It was characterized by seriousness and it was significant. It was the beginning—as both the Palestinian and U.S. sides saw it—for the dialogue being opened by the U.S. Administration with the sides involved in the conflict in the Middle East.

Following this meeting there will be visits to Washington by President Mubarak and then by King Husayn, and even by the prime minister of the enemy state, Israel. The dialogue with the PLO is part of the U.S. moves with the parties involved in the conflict in the region. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak, Fahd Travel to Alexandria by Train

NC2903153589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak and his great guest, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, arrived in Alexandria from Cairo by train at 1500 today. Masses lined both sides of the Sidi Jabir railroad station to greet the two leaders.

King Fahd shook hands with well-wishers led by Governor of Alexandria Counselor Isma'il al-Jawsaqi.

The two leaders then drove in an open car which passed through Alexandria's streets amid cheers from thousands of people. [passage omitted]

At 1615 the two leaders' motorcade arrived at the Al-Muntazah palace where the distinguished guest will stay during his visit to Alexandria. [passage omitted]

Return to Cairo

NC2903205189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 29 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia left Alexandria at 2045 today. They boarded the train at the Sidi Jabir railroad Station in Alexandria to travel to the Saray al-Qubbah Station in Cairo.

President Mubarak and King Fahd will resume their talks on the train during their trip back to Cairo and will complete them tomorrow. They held a 1-hour session of talks at the Al-Muntazah Palace before their departure from Alexandria.

President Mubarak and King Fahd were seen off at the Sidi Jabir Station by Alexandria Governor Counselor Isma'il al-Jawsaqi, Lieutenant General Ibrahim Sayyid 'Atwah, commander of the northern military region, Dr Muhammad Sa'id 'Abd al-Fattah, president of Alexandria University, and other high-ranking officials. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Holds Cabinet Meeting, Discusses Issues

NC2603164189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today welcomed the visit of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to Egypt. The 3-day visit will take place as part of common Arab coordination on major Arab issues. President Mubarak made these remarks at a cabinet meeting lasting 3 hours which he chaired this morning.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the president discussed various important issues during meetings today. Among these issues, Al-Sharif said, were the outcome of his tours abroad and preparations for the talks he will hold during his visit to the United States.

The cabinet issued several decisions on administrative, internal, and economic issues.

Prior to his visit to the United States, the president met with the ministerial group on production and services and discussed with that group the financial and economic situation.

Al-Sharif added that the president met with the governors out of his concern for local issues and to follow up on matters that concern the masses. He discussed several issues of interest to the citizens, among which was the governorates' important role in supervising distribution of subsidized goods and in ensuring that these goods reach the end consumers without exploitative middlemen's interference. In this respect, the president gave his instructions that the production and distribution of bread should be kept separate in order to end the artificial crisis.

Ghali Says Foreign Forces 'Must Leave Lebanon'

NC3003075489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has emphasized that what is important is to solve the Lebanese crisis. He said that Egypt will resist any attempt to partition Lebanon and stressed that all foreign forces must leave Lebanon. Here is Ghali:

[Begin Ghali recording] Egypt will resist any attempt to partition Lebanon. Egypt believes that all foreign forces must withdraw from Lebanon and hopes that the cherished national reconciliation will be achieved. We greatly hope that this will be done in the near future. The Egyptian role is represented in holding quiet contacts with the parties concerned in order to settle some differences and find a bigger common denominator.

However, the basic role is the one which was carried out within the Arab League's framework. We support any possible role within the UN framework. We believe that the current serious crisis in Lebanon requires the efforts of all the states in the world, including the major states, the UN member states, the Arab League member states, and the Nonaligned Movement member states. All the states in the world must unite in their efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the situation in Lebanon. [end recording]

Ghali on Relations With Ethiopia, Sudan

JN2703120889 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 24 Mar 89 pp 28-30

["Text" of interview with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Sana' al-Sa'id; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sa'id] Within the framework of the continuous improvement in relations between Ethiopia and Egypt, there are fears that this improvement is taking place at the expense of Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

[Ghali] This is absolutely incorrect. The objective of Egyptian diplomacy throughout the past 10 years is to improve relations between Sudan and Ethiopia. Egypt will not be able to achieve this objective if it does not have cordial relations with both Sudan and Ethiopia. In other words, if improving relations with Ethiopia harms Egyptian-Sudanese relations this will prevent Egypt from achieving a major objective of its political and diplomatic moves—that is, excellent tripartite relations among Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia. These neighborly countries have a common river and are economically integral.

[Al-Sa'id] Egyptian diplomacy has been eager to achieve a formula whereby Sudan would help Ethiopia settle its internal differences and Ethiopia would help Sudan resolve the southern problem. Did this formula prove any advantage?

[Ghali] Resolving Sudan's and Ethiopia's internal relations and bringing them closer have always been one of the objectives of Egyptian diplomatic moves. We began this when President Numayri assumed power in Sudan. President Mubarak charged me with intensifying contacts between Sudan and Ethiopia to achieve this purpose—a major objective of our diplomacy.

[Al-Sa'id] Can Egypt play this role, particularly if both Sudan and Ethiopia fail to help each other?

[Ghali] We are fully ready to mediate in order to contribute to resolving differences between the North and South in Sudan as well as between the Addis Ababa government and the separatist movement. However, this first requires the approval of the concerned parties.

[Al-Sa'id] While in Addis Ababa, you met with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Were the contacts you held there related to the Sudanese crisis or to Egyptian-Sudanese relations?

[Ghali] I expressed to him the Egyptian people's solidarity with and support for the Sudanese people. I hope that the political crisis will be settled soon and the sought after national unity will be achieved. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Your Excellency chaired the Egyptian side to the meetings of the Egyptian-Ethiopian joint committee. What is your neutral and objective assessment of the work and results of the first session?

[Ghali] The detailed discussions between the Egyptian and Ethiopian sides, during the meetings of the joint committee and its subcommittees, were an opportunity to know thoroughly the needs and requirements of the other side. The discussions were also an opportunity to know the possibility of mutual contribution to meeting the needs and requirements in accordance with the development plans in both countries.

A trade protocol was signed between the two countries. This protocol is based on equal dealing. It takes into consideration providing competitive prices for the commodities exchanged between the two countries. The objective is Egyptian food security and the need to make foodstuff available from nearby African markets with less transportation costs. This reflects the solidarity of the southern countries. It will also create mutual interests between Egypt and its sisterly African states. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Regarding technical cooperation, can Ethiopia participate in joint projects to achieve regional development?

[Ghali] The agreement signed between the Egyptian fund for technical cooperation with African states and the Ethiopian Government calls for providing assistance in the fields of specialized studies and vocational development and training. The agreement also calls for sending Egyptian experts, researchers, and technicians to render advisory services within specific plans and programs. [passage omitted]

AL-WAFD on Preparations for Al-Mahdi Visit

JN3003103889 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
28 Mar 89 pp 1, 6

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] Arab sources in Cairo have asserted that Egyptian-Sudanese contacts through diplomatic channels are currently underway to fix a date for a visit to Egypt by Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Diplomatic contacts between the two countries managed to contain the recent crisis and end the misunderstanding between the two countries. Egypt received an explanation of Al-Mahdi's statement on the Egyptian role in the southern Sudan problem.

The sources pointed out that the recent message sent to President Husni Mubarak by Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani and Prime Minister al-Mahdi included Sudan's appreciation of the distinguished relations between Cairo and Khartoum. The sources added that Al-Mirghani will discuss during his visit to Cairo next weekend the possibility of Cairo hosting an expected meeting between Al-Mahdi and Colonel John Garang, commander of rebel troops in southern Sudan. The meeting will try to end the civil war in th country. Cairo had played a basic role in bringing closer the views of the rebels and the Sudanese Government. Egypt had also asked Ethiopia to press the rebels into stopping military action and resorting to peaceful negotiations.

Sudan's Al-Mirghani Arrives for 1-Day Visit

NC3003101989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0907 GMT
30 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, arrived in Cairo today for a 1-day visit. President Husni Mubarak headed the party that met the Sudanese leader at the airport.

Confers With Mubarak

NC3003104189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1023 GMT
30 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani held an expanded session of talks following their bilateral talks, which lasted approximately 1 hour. The expanded session was attended by members of the Egyptian and Sudanese delegations to the talks.

Al-Mirghani Departs 30 Mar

NC3003141789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—Sudan's State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani left Cairo this afternoon. He arrived in Cairo this morning on a short visit during which he met with President Husni Mubarak.

Ministers Visit U.S. To Prepare for Mubarak Visit

NC3003110489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0642 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Washington, 30 Mar (MENA)—Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs, and Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, arrived in Washington last night for meetings with a number of U.S. officials to prepare for President Husni Mubarak's visit to the U.S. capital, due to start next week.

Upon their arrival, the two ministers met with Egyptian Ambassador in Washington 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Ridi to discuss the topics which they will raise during their meetings with the U.S. officials later today and tomorrow. The two ministers and the U.S. officials will discuss various aspects of bilateral relations, with special emphasis on U.S. aid to Egypt.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Tripoli OAU Meeting

LD2903224689 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2025 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the OAU Defense Committee meeting at the People's Hall in Tripoli on 28 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God:

Brothers members of the African Defense Committee, I am happy to welcome you to the great Jamahiriyah. We appreciate your concern and the efforts you have made to come here. This meeting proves that our African continent is determined to continue collective efforts to reaffirm its existence as an independent continent. It is trying with all its power to be independent and to defend itself and reaffirm its ability to live in freedom before other continents and before the international community.

The birth of the African Defense Committee, which emanated from the OAU, is in itself an expression of the Africans ability to work together for the sake of their continent as well as to defend it and protect it.

Despite obvious stumbling in the field of defense—as far as Africans are concerned—despite the difficulties suffered by your committee in achieving the mission entrusted to it and for which it was set up, and despite negative aspects, we are confident. We are confident that we Africans can go forward despite the difficulties and achieve a collective and common action to protect the existence and independence of our continent. We can do this at a time when the continents around us are turning into political, economic, and military entities which arouse doubts as to whether tiny states can protect their own independence or achieve any level of security or economic effectiveness amid the blocks around them.

Europe has now been divided into two great and powerful blocks. The Warsaw Pact brings together all the socialist countries which are economically embodied in CEMA and militarily embodied in the Warsaw pact. Similarly, Western Europe has also become an economic and military entity. This is a Europe where the two superpowers have set themselves up and linked up with the countries which are in their spheres. On the other side there is the United States of America which consists of more than 50 states, or more than 50 countries in reality. These states constitute one big power in the world. The Asian countries are trying to set up other blocs despite the fact that these blocs already exist.

India, which is one of the big powers, and which is made up of many states called states despite the fact that they are really countries, is just one republic. The same applies to China, which has one-quarter of the world's population.

In South America the struggle is intensifying between the forces of popular revolution and the fascist forces backed by imperialist forces. We believe that that the popular revolution will be victorious in South America and that imperialism and fascism will lose this battle. We expect a prosperous future for South America. We [word indistinct] expect that these countries will move toward popular unity.

Brothers, except for some of the countries in Southeast Asia where struggles are raging both around and inside them, our African continent is all that is left.

Europe thinks of Africa as a mine for its interests, and a plantation which supplies it with crude agricultural products, just as the United States pretends that South America is its garden. However, this North American claim is being destroyed every day by the popular revolution in South America. Consequently, Europe's racist and colonialist dreams about our African continent must be destroyed.

They think that every individual who lives in the African Continent is a slave to the white Europeans. The discrimination against blacks in Britain and America as well as the shameless denial of the rights of our people in the southern part of our continent to live in peace and freedom is proof of racism, barbarism, and savagery which are deep-rooted in the ethics of the Western imperialist colonialists. They cannot respect any human being unless he is strong, nor will they stop sucking our blood, stealing the products of our sweated labor, desecrating our continent's sanctities and draining its resources unless they are compelled to do so by African collective measures such as our meeting in Tripoli today.

This meeting is pooling our defense capabilities and trying to look for a way to develop them to the point where we can frighten those enemies and prevent them from reaching our continent. They are determined that African unity will not be established. They are determined to jeopardize such unity and to conspire against the African nationalist regimes to topple them and replace them with puppet regimes that are dependent on them. They are determined to eliminate all revolutionaries using all possible means, including physical liquidation, so that such revolutionaries can be replaced by proxies and puppets who take orders from U.S. and European imperialism and racism.

They believe they are defending themselves and they use Article 51 of the UN Charter shamelessly before the whole world. They believe that they are defending themselves because the wealth of Africa is vital to them if they [word indistinct] from the minerals and African agricultural products, they would be deprived of their vital necessities. They have become accustomed to eating African fruit and these fruits have become essential to the European diet. How can they give up an essential part of their diet when they have been used to it for decades? When Africa becomes independent and deprives them of these food products they believe that the freedom and independence of Africa and its ability to control its resources is harming their lives because it affects their diet and their nourishment. Therefore they will do all they can to keep control of Africa and the exploitation of its resources.

Many factories in Europe would stop if they were deprived of the African raw materials. The atomic energy which they use for military and peaceful purposes; whether it is used to light their cities or for treatment, or to power their military and civilian ships, this energy comes from the mines of Africa. If they were deprived of this energy many of their machines would stop.

Their contempt for blacks reached such a level that they carried out experiments on them just as they do on mice and rabbits. The famous European heart surgeon in South Africa became famous for his attempt to carry out heart transplants because he carried out unlimited experiments on Africans just as he would do on mice.

They cannot carry out such research in Europe and the United States because the white man, in their opinion, is a human being and therefore no research should be carried out on him. The black African, however, is much inferior to him and therefore research is allowed.

They are trying to transform this continent into a consumer market for their cheap and worthless waste and products. Western imperialism and racism in Europe and the United States, O brothers, is determined to violate Africa's independence and sanctity as well as drain its resources. This will not stop because they consider this a vital matter unless Africa is able to snatch its resources from their clutches and fangs and repulse them and send them back to Europe and the United States. The obstacles which your defense committee has been facing since its creation in 1963 and during all its meetings since—I think this one is number 10—as well as its failure, have been brought about because of the interference of imperialist forces which do not want to see Africa as able to defend itself, its resources, and its abilities.

But now such racist and imperialist Western forces have been interfering in the affairs of this committee, hindering its work and jeopardizing all its meetings. They interfere through their agents which they have placed as their proxies in order to control a big number of African regions. We cannot claim that Africa is independent so long as there are foreign European forces on its territory. But why are these foreign colonialist European forces on African soil?

They are present because of the protection of these agents who are looking after the interests of U.S. and European racism and imperialism on the African continent. Otherwise, why are these military bases and these military forces still in Africa?

Apart form South Africa and Namibia, there are countries which, we think, are independent, but European colonialist forces are stationed on their territory which they pretend are independent, against the will of those people. There is no reason for the presence of these forces other than the protection of the agents established by Europe in order to look after their interests and defend them among us on the African continent despite the will of the African people who aspire for final emancipation, freedom, dignity, and progress. Consequently, we regrettably might fail many times, as we previously did, as long as imperialism and racism are able to penetrate our ranks and the African continent, and as long as agents are entrusted with the implementation of the orders of their masters. These orders stipulate that African unity and African force should not be established, and that Europe should not be deprived of the mines and plantations of Africa. Otherwise, how can we justify the repeated errors of this committee since its founding?

To give proof of this, I cast a look at the report which is considered a study on this comittee, its role, and its prerogatives. It begins by pointing out the limited participation of the member-countries in the meetings of this committee. This committee is a committee of defense ministers. However, as we can see now, and as has happened in the past nine sessions, they take place without the participation of defense ministers.

The report points out the reservations expressed by some states whenever this committee tries to adopt decisive resolutions in order to achieve a collective defense for Africa. This is for the reason that I mentioned to you. The conservatives are those who obey the orders of the racists and the imperialists from outside the African continent. This report or this study says that the Ministerial Council, which held its 31st session in Khartoum in 1978, and which discussed setting up an African military force of intervention, after long and sometimes tedious debates rejected this plan out of fear that some non-African states would set up an African force.

The council confirmed that the issue of defense and security is the concern and responsibility of Africans alone. The creation of an African force can only be envisaged within the context of the objectives and priorities defined by the OAU to eliminate the racist and oppressive ruling minority regime in South Africa, to completely liberate Africa, and to protect the independence and sovereignty of the member countries and their territorial integrity.

This report says that the creation of such a force can only be envisaged within the context of what the Organization has defined: the elimination of the racist regime of the ruling minority in South Africa and the complete liberation of the African Continent. Regrettably, these two objectives have not yet been achieved. South Africa has not been liberated and the African Continent is not free form foreign domination. Then it confirms that the defense of Africa and the guaranteeing of its security and safety are the responsibility of Africans alone.

This council states openly that the creation of an African force can only be achieved within the context of the objectives and priorities defined for the elimination of the racist minority regime in South Africa, the complete liberation of the African Continent and the protection of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the member countries. Therefore, it requested the activation of the OAU Defense Committee to enable it to study the possibility of creating an African defense force under the supervision of the Organization. Indeed, throughout this time the African Continent has not been able to get rid of two things: the racist regime in South Africa and the foreign bases; this committee cannot get rid of the foreign forces in other countries which claim to be independent. How can we establish defense against colonialist Europe in Africa when the forces of colonialist Europe are inside some of the African countries?

One of the first decisive things is that the battle should be settled in South Africa in favor of the black people of South Africa. Africa should mass all its capabilities to settle this battle in favor of the black African people in the southern part of the continent. It is a disgrace for a European regime set up by the racist whites to remain in the southern part of the African continent. It is disgraceful for African countries to begin exchanging visits, negotiations or recognitions with such a racist and dirty regime—an alien and foreign regime—which is against the black race. As far as we are concerned, as African revolutionaries, such actions are not acceptable and should be condemned, generally and specifically. No justification is acceptable because such actions might lead us to accept this racist colonialism and this aggressive regime in part of our African Continent. Moreover, it might make it linger longer and legitimize it in the eyes of the world.

We should only meet such a regime as the one in southern Africa in a battle and not anywhere else. We should only exchange violence with it in the same way that we should be exchanging violence with the Zionist-racist regime in Palestine which has cemented a very strong alliance with the racist regime in South Africa. They are exchanging expertise on the production of weapons of total destruction, like nuclear weapons and nuclear missiles aimed at annihilating the Arab and African races in the Middle East and Africa. Whoever cooperates with the racist regime in South Africa or the racist regime in Palestine is an archenemy of the African Continent as well as its freedom, security, peace, and future.

All these methods should be rejected by African citizens and the Arab citizens; they should be rejected by Africa's freemen and by us as revolutionaries in the African Continent. We must never allow any cooperation with a regime which would allow racism to linger on, consecrate aggression in Palestine and South Africa, and give them breathing space so that they can plant their feet firmly in Palestine and South Africa to the detriment of two peoples. History cannot deny the existence of these two peoples even if proxies and agents of racism as well as sycophants of imperialism, Zionism, and racism try to deny them. The United Nations has declared Zionism to be a kind of racism.

We will not accept stretching out our hand to or cooperating with regimes that prolong the life of racist regimes. These two people are the Palestinian people and the people of Azania or South Africa. Who would deny the Palestinian people? If the puppets disclaim it, history will not deny it. Who among us and among all generations and people does not know who the Palestinian people are? They are the ones who own the land, who own Palestine, and have the historical right to it. [applause]

Dear brothers, if recognition of the racist regime in South Africa or the racist Zionist regime in Palestine could make us avoid the dangers represented by these regimes, we would go forward with this recognition. However, whether we recognize them or not these two racist regimes hostile to us will continue to strengthen their military potential with weapons of mass destruction and will be determined to eliminate the Arab and the black African races so that they are the only ones to remain in the Middle East and South Africa with all of us surrendering to their domination.

Consequently, the fundamental and historical mission of Africa is to decide the battle in Palestine and in South Africa for the benefit of the Palestinian people and the people of South Africa and for the elimination of the racist regimes in Palestine and South Africa. This is the permanent danger for the future of our generations. Even if we ignored and dismissed this danger it would continue to consolidate itself and bring closer the day of the elimination of the Arab and African races with weapons of mass destruction.

The racist regime in South Africa and the racist regime in Palestine work day in and day out to strengthen their military arsenal with weapons of mass destruction and they have arrived at manufacturing the atomic bomb. These racists own a chain of chemical bacteriological laboratories. The Israelis have announced many times with impudence before the world that they would not hesitate to use bacteriological weapons when the time comes for their use. As for their manufacturing and possession of nuclear missiles and atomic bombs, this is an issue that has been confirmed and is an indisputable fact.

The racist regime in South Africa also has chemical plants which manufacture gas poison, but neither Europe nor the United States discussed the weapons of mass destruction that Israel and the whites in South Africa possess. But they raise hell when they hear that a small country in Africa—like Libya—built a pharmaceutical plant. It is as if we do not have the right to make medicines and that we have to import them from their factories.

Moreover, they said that pharmaceutical plants, fertilizer plants, and insecticide plants could all be turned into chemical weapons plants. This means that our states—these small, scattered, and weak African Arab states—must not build plants for fertilizers to increase their agricultural production because this might pose danger to the Israelis or the whites in South Africa or to Europe or to the United States and the life of the Americans. The Israeli and the racist are more important and more valuable than the life of the African continent and the life of the Arab nation. We must not build insecticide plants and we must not combat insects; we must surrender to insects and let them invade us. We can combat them with the fly whisks because the medicines plants might be turned into chemical materials that could harm the Israelis or the racists in South Africa.

This is the twisted and unreasonable logic Europe and the United States want us to use. Brothers, we can do nothing but rely on ourselves and on our own strength. We have to decide that our efforts—all our efforts—should be for the liberation of Palestine, the liberation of South Africa, and the destruction of racist regimes. We must not consult anyone on this decision, because it concerns our future and the future of our generations.

Second, African states—members of this committee and members of the OAU—should totally refrain from carrying out military maneuvers with foreign forces. There are African states I do not want to mention that have been carrying out military maneuvers that threaten the security of Africa. These maneuvers must cease immediately. This concerns all of Africa. We must not train the forces of imperialism—the forces of colonialism—in our air space so that they can sustain life there or conduct landing practice or come ashore; these are all preparations for the renewed invasion of this continent some day. We must stop contributing to the raising of the fighting capability of the imperialist forces by allowing them to hold maneuvers in the skies of Africa.

Third, we must eliminate Western military bases from the African continent immediately. Africa should not accept any state that sets up military bases or holds military maneuvers or establishes political, economic, or military cooperation with the racist regimes in South Africa and Palestine. If we ignore these things, dear brothers, we deceive our future, deceive ourselves, and practice hypocrisy. We as revolutionaries here cannot deceive ourselves or our African and Arab masses and cannot practice hypocrisy with considering the results.

In relation to the country in which you meet today, it marches on without taking orders from anyone and without consulting any of these suspect sides. It continues to consolidate its defensive capability, its economic progress, and social justice. It continues to build socialism, eliminate exploitation of man by man, end the sucking of one man's blood by another man, end stealing of one man's effort by another man, and end the sweat of one man by another. [passage omitted]

The hired hands, the needy, the wronged, the oppressed, the exploited, and those whose rights were usurped, cannot be depended on to defend freedom and dignity because they have nothing to defend. Therefore, the liberation of the African man in accordance with the third universal theory and the Green Book—the theses of the era of the masses—is the solid ground which brings humanity back to the African. [passage omitted]

This country is also heading, in accordance with the aspirations and the resolutions of the OAU, toward the establishment of collective defense. This was stated in the report of the organization ministerial council, which calls for the achievement of five modes of military cooperation among the African states, at least until the achievement of collective defense. They are: military alliances, defense agreements, military cooperation, and friendship treaties among African countries in a bilateral or multilateral form.

In implementation of this, the great Jamahiriyah concluded a series of joint defense agreements with African countries, which brings the day of collective defense of the African Continent closer and contributes to the construction of the African collective defense capacity, whereby the great Jamahiriyah signed joint defense treaties with the Republic of Burundi in 1973, the Republic of Niger 1974, the Republic of Central Africa in 1976, the Republic of Guinea in 1974, the Republic of Rwanda in 1975, the Republic of Togo in 1975, and the Republic of Chad in 1980.

We also concluded another series of friendship treaties in conformity with the calls of the ministerial council of the OAU, whereby we signed friendship treaties with the Republic of Chad in 1980, the United Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Zambia in 1976, the People's Republic of Mozambique in 1982, Burundi in 1972, and Central Africa in 1971.

We also concluded defense cooperation agreements as stipulated by the ministerial council of the OAU with the People's Republic of Mozambique in 1982, and with Guinea Bissau. We also concluded another series of agreements of an economic and social nature. They are nonmilitary but consolidate the military defense capability of the African Continent.

We are also proud of the fact that we have trained thousands of Africans on Libyan soil, using Libyan instructors who took part in the liberation of a number of African countries that had been colonized, and who are currently fighting in South Africa and Southwest Africa to liberate the people of Southwest Africa (?led by) the Southwest African People's Organization [SWAPO]. Soldiers of the following countries and organizations were trained and graduated in Libya: Zimbabwe, Guinea Bissau, People's Republic of Benin, Guinea, Burundi, Sao Tome and Principe, Djibouti, Uganda, Chad, Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, SWAPO, Ghana, Sudan, Rwanda, Togo, Central Africa, Lesotho, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Zambia, Madagascar, Pan-African Congress, African National Congress.

Thousands of military men, or more precisely, freedom fighters, graduated from here and contributed to the liberation of parts of Africa and are now participating in the battles being waged in the south and the west of Africa. [passage omitted]

We believe, and it is an inevitable fact, that eternal peace will be achieved when the theory of the masses and the third universal theory win and when rulers and governments disappear because there is no hatred between people, when people do not hate each other and the ordinary citizen does not wish to fight other ordinary citizens from another country. The one who issues orders to fight is the ruler and governments are the ones that decide war, and armies implement these orders and cross borders to attack other peaceful people.

There never has been in history an entire nation that had to go across to the land of another nation to engage it in combat. [sentence as heard] There has never been a thing like this and never will be. Consequently, true peace will not be realized under nuclear terror and a mutual deterrent; this is a barbaric theory which make peace become realizable through fear. True and eternal peace is the one that is put forward by the third universal theory and the Green Book. [applause] It involves the emergence of jamahiriyahs and the disappearance of governments and armies. Only then can eternal peace be realized, because nations could never think of invading one another. The traditional army has disappeared and it is being turned into sections for training the militarized people on Libyan soil.

In addition to this I would not like to keep from you—while we are talking with ourselves as a single African family that gathered to take collective measures in order to protect itself and defend its freedom and independence and the soil of the African continent—that the classical army has disappeared and has been turned into groups for training people. However, Libya until this moment, is maintaining a mighty air force. This air force from our own viewpoint and analysis is not offensive and does not pose danger to others. It has no intention of committing aggression or invasion since, as you know and most of those present among the African military know, the warplane can engage in a battle for only a number of minutes.

This means that the aircraft in itself is a means of defense and not a means of attack and, consequently, however strong the Libyan air force is, whatever its development, and whatever deadly weapons we supply to this airforce, it will not go beyond being a means of defense in the hands of the Libyan people. You know that in April 1986 the United States, Britain, and NATO decided to attack my home—to kill my children and the sons of the Libyan people in Banghazi and Tripoli—and the NATO member states led by the United States decided to carry out physical elimination against me personally and against my children. They decided to carry this out by air. The field preparation of this operation continued in full swing for 2 years. They used 170 aircraft in this attack across the Atlantic Ocean, Europe, and the Mediterranean Sea.

Half of the aircraft they used were planes to carry out refueling—the Boeing type used for passenger transport. The planes used in this campaign, which was unprecedented in history, were directed toward my house in Bab 'Aziziyah in Tripoli. They were refueled four times in midair by Boeing aircraft. They also used planes prepared for a third world war and it is estimated that this campaign would destroy 60 percent of the defenses of the Warsaw Treaty if used against them.

A number of these aircraft failed and returned from the heart of the Atlantic Ocean and from the heart of Europe and the last batch returned from the Mediterranean even before the attack started. When the attack took place and these planes started to fall before the effective resistance of the Libyans, orders were issued to return the rest of the last squadrons. It was an utter and a historical failure and brought disappointment and shame on the great Western states. Defeat and utter failure were theirs when they wanted to attack a small state with an air force using the most modern planes and when they stopped to use their civilian fleets and prepared them for this operation using supply aircraft and refueling in midair. They used the sixth fleet and perhaps the seventh or any other fleet in the Atlantic ocean and the Mediterranean to support this campaign. Despite all this, it failed and we handed the last pilot to get killed over to the United States in the era of the new administration in the last 2 months through the Vatican.

This means that the plane—even the type possessed by the United States—is not a reliable means of assault. The plane originally was a means of defense. Consequently, we want to defend the stand of Libya which possesses a mighty air force and which is being consolidated and developed. But I would like to stress that the air force is a means of defense by its nature and not an assault means.

As for the traditional army, it has disappeared and is being melted down into a militarized people. We proceed toward the African Continent and say that it should adopt the third universal theory and that it should spread in its regions the teachings and theses of the Green Book, which does not, as some ignorant people in the world think, call for terrorism, violence, or the use of arms or military coups. The Green Book is the popular democratic theory of the masses taking over power peacefully and democratically and democratically transforming popular masses. The Green Book is free from any incitement to violence or the use of arms; it fully holds force in disdain because the use of force in itself is a barbaric act.

The one with no popular ability, the one with no theory, and the bankrupt one is the one who is compelled to use force. [passage omitted]

The Green Book must find its way in all parts of Africa so that the third universal theory and the theory of the armed people will spread. I return to the meaning that concerns this situation, namely defending Africa. The African state, which has a regular force, is unable to defend itself against Europe, and all Africans brought together with all our regular forces will not be able to defend themselves against the United States and its military forces or against Europe and its military forces that come forth. However, we can resist the United States and a thousand Americas with popular resistance with our armed peoples. We must thus move toward the abrogation of regular traditional armies which will be replaced by the armed peoples who are trained to defend themselves. [applause]

Dear brothers, please excuse me for taking time, but this time was necessary to put the facts before you and you are worthy of this time. I congratulate you on your success in the meeting or at least your presence in this place.

I am distressed and I find it difficult to talk about the failure faced by this committee because these statements could be broadcast and make us victims of malicious joy before the Europeans, the Americans and the Asians who would hear that the Africans are unable to set up collective defense. Unfortunately, the report before me on the stumbling of this committee is very distressing and I hope that this failure will not continue. I would like for this failure to be left for good and be replaced with success. The latter depends on our will and the realization of the hopes of the OAU and (?not in a specific resolution). The main issues we face are clear and we must not neglect them and walk on a land where there are mines. [passage omitted]

Your country Libya is your guard and the guard of Africa alongside this African coast. It will remain the gate which will not be crossed by the enemy, unless over the dead bodies of its sons. It is the protector of North Africa against the barbaric invasions of the north and the West which will continue until Africa is able to face them and drive them back to where they came from. Struggle is continuous and may God grant you success. May God's peace be upon you. [applause]

Sudan

SPLA Leader Garang Meets With U.S. Congressmen

EA2903164889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLM-SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement-Army] political-military high command today informed radio SPLA that the chairman and commander in chief of the SPLM-SPLA, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, held a meeting in Sudan with a delegation of U.S. congressmen on Tuesday, 28th March 1989. The delegation was composed of: 1) Senator Gordon Humphrey 2) Congressman Frank Wolf: 3) Congressman Gary Ackerman. The meeting discussed how relief could reach the hungry population in Sudan.

According to the spokesman, the chairman, SPLM-SPLA, expressed his profound and sincere appreciation and thanks for the concern shown by the international community towards the suffering Sudanese, adding that the needs of the population are enormous. He went on to say that man-made and natural disasters have combined to bring about the present human suffering and the movement welcomes help from all quarters. The chairman explained that the people under the control of the SPLA are the majority but could not be kept in one place for lack of resources. This is in contrast with people in government-held garrisons, who are concentrated in their thousands in small places.

The affected population can be categorized into: 1) People in the areas controlled by the SPLA; 2) People in the government-held towns in the south; 3) Displaced people in Khartoum; 4) People on transit.

Most of the displaced people in Khartoum went there as a result of the atrocities perpetrated by the armed militia the government unleashed on them and their property. Although the movement was not invited to attend the recent Khartoum conference on relief, it took the matter seriously and spelt out its position, which the government discussed with Mr James Grant of UNICEF. The movement welcomes all benevolent and humanitarian agencies to deliver food and non-food relief to the population before the rains set in.

On the cease-fire, the chairman explained that this is a complex matter which must be handled politically. For the war to end, the causes of conflict must be addressed or seen to be [as heard], the government in Khartoum, on 21st December 1988, rejected by resolution of Parliament the SPLM-DUP peace initiative that could have prepared the way for a cease-fire. This was an unfortunate development.

I just heard yesterday, the chairman continued, that the new Sadiq Government has endorsed the SPLM-DUP peace initative. This is a step in the right direction. The Sudanese people are now waiting for the government to take the next step, that is, to present to Parliament the bill necessary for the implementation of the provisions. The chairman concluded by thanking the congressmen for the trouble they took to come to Sudan to have a first-hand look at the situation.

In another development, the spokesman disclosed that the chairman and commander in chief of the SPLM-SPLA, Dr John Garang de Mabior, left yesterday for a 3-week tour of a number of African countries.

SPLA Enters Kurdufan With 'Earthquake Bang'

EA2903165689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Item accompanied by martial music]

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces have arrived in southern Kurdufan in full force and inflicted heavy blow on Khartoum forces there.

The official military spokesman of the SPLA today disclosed to Radio SPLA that an SPLA division has arrived in southern Kurdufan with an earthquake bang. The SPLA division is named the "New Kush Forces" after the ancient and glorious Sudanese empire of Kush. On 21st March 1989 Khartoum's military forces in southern Kurdufan massed to attack an element of the "New Kush Forces" at (Fama), 30 miles south of Kadugli. The friendly population and SPLA internal cells in Kadugli had alerted the "New Kush Forces" and the enemy fell into a deliberate ambush. The enemy suffered very heavy casualties in both men and materials. The enemy attacking forces were routed and dispersed in disarray, fleeing in different directions, leaving 56 dead on the battle field. SPLA internal cells in Kadugli have reported that more than 80 enemy soldiers were wounded including their commanding officer identified as Colonel Adam Muhammad Adam, who is reported to be seriously wounded.

Tunisia

Libya's Al-Humaydi Meets With Ben Ali, Comments

LD2903193389 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] At noon today President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi at the Presidential Palace in Carthage. Following the meeting, which was attended by Habib Ammar, minister of state and special advisor to the president, Interior Minister Chadli Neffati, and 'Abd al-'Ati al-Ubaydi, the general representative of the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah in Tunis, Maj al-Khuwyalidi al-Humaydi made the following statement:

I was pleased at meeting His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the hero of the glorious 7th of November and I conveyed to him a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution and his wishes for success and sentiments of support and backing to the 7th of November president. During the lengthy meeting with his excellency the president I had the opportunity to engage in a dialogue that dealt with a number of issues of mutual interest including bilateral issues. It was also an opportunity to discuss many questions in the Maghreb arena, particularly after the signing of the Marrakech treaty, and other international questions of mutual interest.

On this occasion, when we are on the doorstep of the presidential elections, we affirm our standing by and unlimited support to the 7th of November, its democratic course, and its leader the saver of the Tunisian people, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. We affirm this support as freedom was consolidated in Tunisia on the 7th of November, the banner of Arab unity was raised, the new role of the Tunisian people was emphasized in the march of the Arab nation, and because Tunisia has occupied its proper role in the process of international events and its influence has become clear and effective on various stances and issues. The Libyan people and their leadership are by the side of those who freed Tunisia and with those who adopted freedom as the course and unity of this road, and this includes President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Legal Standardization Committee With Libya Meets

LD2603172289 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] In implementing the minutes of the first meeting between the Tunisian-Libyan higher followup committee, held in Tripoli from 16-20 January, the Tunisian-Libyan committee for the standardization of legislature held its first meeting at the Justice Ministry yesterday [25 March] to prepare projects to standardize the fundamental legislature.

These projects include civil, commercial, maritime, and civil rights laws; penalties and civil and commercial court proceedings and penalty code measures; real estate registration; and judicial organization. It was decided to set up specialized subcomittees, which will look into the abovementioned laws. These committees will hold organized meetings alternately in both countries.

Joint Communications Committee With Libya Meets

LD2603195789 Tripoli JANA in English 1816 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Tunis, Al-Mirrikh [March] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Libyan-Tunisian joint committees for equipment and communications signed yesterday in Tunis the minutes of their meeting.

The minutes were signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport, and Moncef Mouelhi, the Tunisian minister for equipment and housing, and the Minister of [Transport and] Communications Brahim Khouaja.

The meeting minutes include the compilation of all legislations, regulations, terms and descriptions and standards in the field of housing in both countries with the aim to study, analyse, numbering them and putting forward proposals for the unification of all concepts.

Also the minutes provides for the setting up of joint working group to work for the unification of planning methods so as to coordinate between plans and laying down programs related to equipment concerned with architectural planning and laying down the general legal framework for the urban and rural construction.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport expressed pride in the existing level of cooperation between the two sisterly countries and the spirit of cooperation and cohesions he found from brothers in Tunisia.

He pointed out that the achievements realised in the field of equipment and communications, since the change of the 7th November, constitutes a major accomplishment as telephone lines cover both countries thanks to the orientations of the two countries for the realisation of complementarity, unity and the desire of the technicians for quick execution and follow up.

The Tunisian minister for equipment and housing on his part asserted that this work constituted a further stone on the path of setting up the Arab Maghreb Union and the realisation of the aspirations of the sons of the Arab Maghreb Union.

He said this work will continue at the level of committees and expressed his hope that the forthcoming meeting will include all the five Maghreb countries considering the importance of the sector of equipment in the realisation of the economic and social launch. He said this is the real launch beginning between Jamahiryah and Tunisia as work began for the realisation of the enlargement of the road linking Bin Qirdan and Ra's Ajdir.

The Tunisian minister of communication highlighted, on his part, the seriousness which characterized the proceedings of the joint committtees. He said the positive and important results achieved by the committees in the field of communications will benefit both sisterly countries and other Arab Maghreb states.

Youth Committee Protocol With Libya Finalized

LD2703152189 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Tunis, Al-Mirrikh 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for the Mobilization of the Masses and Dr. H. Ben Salama, director of youth and childhood in sisterly Tunisia concluded yesterday the protocol of the Joint Committee for Youth and Children. This protocol includes an agreement on the proposal for setting up a pan-Arab council for upbringing children, youth and sports, apart from endorsing the programme of integration in this field at the level of the two sisterly countries and at the level of Arab Maghreb countries.

This programme is to be implemented during the next weeks by all the establishments, organizations and societies interested in childhood and sports in the two countries. This has come on concluding the meetings held by the Libyan Arab-Tunisian Joint Committee for Youth and Sports over Sunday and Saturday.

Kuwait

Official Says Yacht Hijacking Story 'Unfounded'

PM3003091189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Mar 89 p 1

[Hisham al-Diwan report: "Al-Rashid Assures AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Have No Information About a 'Hijacked Yacht'"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday contacted Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, in search of the truth about the "riddle" of the hijacked yacht. Al-Rashid denied to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT any Kuwaiti Government knowledge of any such occurrence.

Meanwhile a Kuwaiti Interior Ministry official stated that he has no details or information on this matter. A Defense Ministry official said that the report is probably untrue because there have been no statements or communiques.

The yacht hijacking story started with a report published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA'. [passage omitted]

A senior Bahraini official contacted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Kuwait stated that everything said about this matter is fabricated and unfounded. He added that there have been several incidents of disappearances of boats or yachts because of bad weather recently, that some of them were inspected by Iranian authorities, but that none of the yachts which have returned and which were mentioned by that newspaper had lost its way or been lost, and that he has no knowledge of that.

Defense Ministry To Set Up Reservist Brigade

LD2903180889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1613 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 29 (KUNA)—Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah Wednesday affirmed that his ministry is preparing to set up a brigade of military reservists and announced that Kuwait would shortly receive the first shipment of Egyptian-made air defence missiles.

Shaykh Nawwaf was speaking to reporters today after attending the graduation ceremony of a batch of conscript officers, held under auspices of H.H. the amir and supreme commander of the Army and Armed Forces at the Military Academy.

Deputizing for the amir, Shaykh Nawwaf also asserted that the Defence Ministry is keen on providing the reservist (?brigade) with all requirements and would prepare it in the best manner that would make it effectively contribute to defending the country's security and independence.

Answering a question on to what extent an agreement signed earlier by Egypt and Kuwait to supply the latter with defensive armaments was implemented, Shaykh Nawwaf said the first batch of the Egyptian-made air-defence missiles would arrive in Kuwait soon and other shipments would follow on timetable in accordance to the agreement.

Oil Exploration Deal Signed With Thailand

JN2503155489 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 23-24 Mar 89 pp 1, 7

[By Diane Diaz]

[Text] In a move to expand its involvement in the Asian marketplace, Kuwait has agreed to explore for oil in Thailand and introduce its Q-8 service stations in that country.

Kuwait will send a delegation of oil experts to Thailand within the next three weeks to begin putting the operations into action, according to a senior Thai official.

The oil exploration deal between Thailand and Kuwait was sealed yesterday in a meeting between Kuwait's Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah and Kon Thappharangsi, Thailand's minister for energy, investment and tourism.

The exploration for oil and gas will be carried out in the Gulf of Thailand, Thappharangsi said in an interview with the Arab Times. He explained that Kuwait would first gather the technical information it needs, then decide whether it would be economically viable to invest in gas and oil drilling.

Kuwait is also moving to compete for a share of the retail petroleum market in Asia.

Thappharangsi said that Kuwait will open its first Asian Q-8 petrol stations in Bangkok, and eventually branch out from there to surrounding countries.

"Kuwait wants to use Thailand as a springboard to expand into other (Asian) countries," Thappharangsi said, adding that Kuwait has expressed interest in using Bangkok as a hub for economic and political relations with countries such as Burma, Kampuchea, Laos and Vietnam.

In addition, Kuwait is making a bid to introduce its petroleum products in the area of aviation field service at Bangkok's Dom Muang International Airport.

Such a move would place Kuwait alongside other large petroleum suppliers such as Shell and ESSO, which currently provide petrol to planes landing at the Bangkok airport.

Thappharangsi said the aviation deal would be finalized within the next four weeks, following a visit to Thailand by a Kuwaiti team.

"Kuwait has strong confidence in our economy and our country. The feeling is mutual," Thappharangsi said, adding that this could be the beginning of even deeper economic ties between Thailand and Kuwait.

He said Thailand is working to establish deeper trade relations with Kuwait.

Garments, poultry, frozen sea food and boneless chicken are among Thailand's largest exports. Thappharangsi said the country is seeking Kuwaiti investors to help bolster interest in bringing those items to Kuwait.

Thappharangsi was in Kuwait on a three-day visit at the invitation of Shaykh 'Ali. He will return to Thailand today.

New Labor Law 'May Be Amended' After 3 Months

JN2603135789 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 25 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] The new labour law which came into effect on March 22 may be amended after three months, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad has said.

He added that the labour law has been implemented on a trial basis for three months during which period the pros and cons of the new regulations will be reviewed.

"The new regulations, applicable only to the private sector, will be subjected to strict scrutiny," Shaykh Nasir said.

"The ministry will not hesitate to amend any regulations found unsatisfactory or containing loopholes," he added.

The trial period is intended to provide the ministry with pertinent information which will assist in streamlining the new regulations. The ministry will promptly review any of the rules of the ministerial decision based on data acquired during the trial period, he said.

Meanwhile, 'Isa Yasin, the undersecretary of the ministry said that the main objective of banning the transfer of residence in the private sector before three years is to achieve stability in the local market. This rule is to safeguard the interest of the employer who has brought the employee to Kuwait.

He added that after the three-year period with the sponsor, the employer can obtain his transfer to another sponsor with the approval of the former sponsor. However, if the former sponsor does not agree, the employee can leave Kuwait and return with a new work permit.

All those who applied for a transfer of residency or change of sponsor before March 21 will not be affected by the new law.

Kuwait or GCC citizens who would like to work in the private sector should accept the salary offered. Should neither of this category be available the ministry will then provide a visa for expatriate employees.

A special employment section for Kuwaitis and GCC citizens will be established in all labour governorates. This centralised department will be established to co-ordinate and exchange information between various sections.

The new law strictly bans foreign workers from taking up employment with anyone other than the official sponsor. According to the law, any expatriate found working in two places will be deported, with the second employer bearing the cost.

Saudi Arabia

Sultan: Arabs Should Arm To Deter 'Archenemy'

PM3003093989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Mar 89 pp 1-2

[Mahir 'Abbas report: "Responding To Those Promoting Commission Allegations, Prince Sultan Says: It Is Sufficient To Tell the Envious: We Have Nothing To Say to You"]

[Text] Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, announced that Saudi Arabia will begin applying the economic parity program with France along the lines of the approach pursued by the Kingdom with both the United States and Britain.

Answering reporters' questions during his visit to the General Establishment for Military Industries in Al-Kharj yesterday, Prince Sultan pointed out that the economic parity program pursued by Saudi Arabia has started with the establishment of five manufacturing companies in the United States in cooperation with the Saudi General Establishment for Military Industries. They will begin operation a month after the official announcement of their establishment.

He said 49 percent of the capital is Saudi investment and 51 percent represents investments of the sums used to purchase U.S. arms—the first step of its kind in the world.

Prince Sultan added that the Al-Yamamah project which Saudi Arabia started with the United Kingdom has resulted in a meeting comprising 500 British companies specialized in the industries between the two states.

On the rumors circulated recently about the Tornado deal with Britain, Prince Sultan said: It is sufficient to tell the envious: We have nothing to say to you.

Answering a question about Zionist nuclear havoc and Israel's noncompliance with and disrespect for the laws on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, Prince Sultan said: Banning nuclear weapons is an essential humane principle, regardless of the nonsense talk by wanton people. But armament for the sake of deterring the archenemy is possible, so we shall see.

About some foreign quarters' attempts to harm Saudi Arabia's relationship with the YAR, Prince Sultan said: Our brothers in fraternal Yemen realize that what is being hatched outside the Arab nation is against Arab cooperation, solidarity, and harmony.

In reply to a question about Pakistan's attempt to restore relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran and reports that those relations will be restored before the beginning of the blessed month of Ramadan [6 or 7 April], Prince Sultan said: The Kingdom opens its heart to all Muslims and those who are willing to cooperate, if they follow the sure path under the Islamic shari'ah.

Shamir's Proposals to Bush Not Yet 'Finalized'

TA3003061089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said the ideas which he will present to the U.S. Administration have not yet been finalized, and their preparation will continue up to the time of his departure for Washington. He told a gathering of Likud cabinet ministers last night that the basis for the proposals he will submit lie in the principles of Camp David. Shamir believes a major effort must be made to explain Israel's views, because the manner in which the events in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are being presented by the American media causes Israel untold damage.

The prime minister also expressed interest in having Foreign Minister Arens join him in the U.S. trip, but no decision has yet been made.

Minister Ari‘el Sharon told Shamir he must demand of the U.S. Administration that it break off all its links with the PLO.

For his part, Vice Premier Shim‘on Peres has said a path must be found to negotiations with the Palestinians and a way to make the decisions necessitated by the price involved. Peres told the visiting delegation of U.S. senators, headed by Senator Daniel Inouye: Declarations and public relations will not bring peace, and anyone who restricts himself to such methods is fostering a dangerous illusion. [passage omitted]

Clash With U.S. Feared

TA3003101289 Tel Aviv YEDI‘OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Mar 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Bina Barzel and Yohanan Lahav]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our political correspondent points out that there is a heavy atmosphere in the prime minister's entourage prior to its departure for the United States next week. Although they do not admit it publicly, there is a feeling that the U.S. Administration will not be satisfied with the ideas that Shamir will bring with him, and they are not hiding it.

Jerusalem fears a clash with the U.S. Administration, especially in view of the blunt remarks by Secretary of State Baker, who said: The ideas we heard from Mr Arens will not suffice. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA‘ARIV in Hebrew on 30 March in a report by Ilan Bakhar on page A2 adds: "A senior political personality who recently met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and heard the ideas he will take to Washington said last night that the ideas are disappointing, insufficiently thought out, and contain nothing new, and it is doubtful whether they will answer the United States' desire to advance the peace process in the region and help extract Israel from its political isolation."]

Further on 'Land Day' Protests, Disturbances

Gaza Curfew Set; 2 Wounded

TA2903172389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] At 2000 tonight, a curfew will be imposed on the entire Gaza Strip in anticipation of Land Day tomorrow. The duration of the curfew is undetermined at the moment.

Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports that relative quiet prevailed in the Gaza Strip today, except for several disturbances. A resident of Al-Nusayrat refugee camp and a resident of Al-Burayj refugee camp were wounded by plastic bullets fired at them by Israel Defense Forces during riots and stone-throwing incidents in the camps.

Curfews were clamped today on the Al-Shati‘, Jabalyah, Al-Burayj, Al-Mughazi, and Tall al-Sultan refugee camps, on six Rafah neighborhoods, and on the neighborhood of Al-Shaykh Radwan, where the security forces have still not found the soldier's weapon which had been snatched by Arabs.

Arab Residents Refused Entry

TA2903183989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Report by Shlomo Berger]

[Text] At 2000 this evening, the Army imposed an indefinite curfew on the entire Gaza Strip, confining some 650,000 people to their homes.

In Judaea and Samaria, all Arab residents will be forbidden from entering Israel proper as of midnight tonight for a period of 24 hours. Last year, all the areas were closed for 3 days.

The Military Government in Judaea and Samaria today summoned Arab notables and those with connections to the nationalist circles and warned them to keep the peace. The authorities said the Army will act swiftly and with force to quell any violent demonstrations. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is beefing up its forces throughout the territories to forestall disturbances.

Leaflet No 37 of the Unified Command of the Uprising has called for violent demonstrations and clashes with troops to mark Land Day [30 March]. The leaflet also calls on Israeli Arabs to join the violence. Israeli Arab leaders, however, have appealed for calm, and the police have promised to keep out of Arab areas as long as order is maintained. But, some 4,500 policemen and 500 soldiers will be deployed on the main roads and outside of Arab population centers in case of trouble.

A general strike has been called for Land Day, which commemorates the 1976 riot over land expropriation in which six Israeli Arabs were killed.

2 Die in West Bank

TA3003062089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] An Arab resident of Salfit in Samaria died last night, apparently of wounds sustained during a violent clash with an Army patrol in the town. The Army is investigating. The youth is said to have been wanted by security forces.

In Bethlehem, a young man was killed when an unidentified object he was handling in his house exploded. Police are investigating.

Two young men were injured in disturbances in the Gaza Strip: one in the Al-Burayj refugee camp and the other in the Jabalyah camp.

In Jerusalem, a No 31 bus was stoned last night on the road from the Pat neighborhood to Gilo. A police car traveling behind the bus was also stoned, but nobody was hurt. Some of the windows on the bus were shattered.

7 Villages Avoid Strike

TA3003122289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Excerpts] In seven villages in 'Emeq Yizre'el, the Arab inhabitants decided against striking today to mark Land Day. The villages are Nein, Na'ura, Tamra, Al-Taiyiba, Sulam, Al-Dahi, and Kafr Masr, which together have a population of about 7,000. All the shops are open and the villagers went to work as usual. It is also reported from 'Akko that municipal employees reported to their jobs as usual today.

Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev this morning toured East Jerusalem and said that the area is quiet and there is free access to all places. In Nazareth, on the other hand, there is a full-dress strike with all stores and restaurants closed, but public transport is functioning. In neighboring Upper Nazareth, several hundred Arab workers reported for work in industrial plants and at the municipality. Similarly in the Negev, there is no strike among the 7,000 residents of Bedouin villages. [passage omitted]

There is a general strike today in Judaea and Samaria in support of Land Day being marked by Israel's Arabs. Touring the area today is reporter Shlomo Berger:

[Begin Berger recording] [Passage omitted] Nabulus and Ramallah have been declared closed military areas. Tulkarm and Janin and their surrounding refugee camps are under curfew, as are the Balatah and 'Askar refugee camps near Nabulus and the village of Qabatiyah. Ramallah was also quiet today and the streets were empty, but there were a lot of Land Day slogans painted on walls calling on residents to observe the general strike and to escalate the uprising. In several areas of the town, residents were painting over the slogans, having been ordered to do so by soldiers. [end recording]

Update on Incidents

TA3003115189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Ori Nir and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] An Arab youth was shot and wounded in the buttocks during the dispersal of riots in Hebron. Five inhabitants of the Nabulus casbah were shot and wounded yesterday during the dispersal of a march held mainly by women. Several people are also reported to have been wounded by beatings and rubber bullets. They are said to be in good condition.

Arab sources said yesterday that one person was shot and wounded in Bethlehem during the dispersal of a womens march there. Several dozen women reportedly held a sit-in at the International Red Cross headquarters in the town, and later left in a procession. Soldiers used tear gas to disperse them, and when the procession turned into a demonstration the soldiers also beat some of the demonstrators. Three women were reported hospitalized after being beaten.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources reported four people wounded by Israel Defense Forces soldiers' gunfire. [passage omitted]

An Egged spokesman has said that since the start of the intifadah [uprising], 2,800 buses have been damaged; of these, 44 were totally burned. He said that all buses traveling in the West Bank have been equipped with protective gear and that these will now be installed on buses traveling in the Gaza Strip.

Unrest Casualty Figures Updated

TA2903155389 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 29 Mar 89 p 10

[Text] On Monday, 27 March, the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] spokesman reported 325 Palestinian casualties in the occupied territories. This figure includes casualties caused by IDF gunfire only.

According to the HA'OLAM HAZE count, the number of deaths has reached 429.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, reported 536 fatalities, according to the following enumeration:

—364 killed by IDF and settler gunfire.

—72 killed by asphyxiation.

—44 killed by beating and electrocution.

—56 died of other reasons.

Envoy to France on 'Arafat-Mitterrand Meeting

TA2903161989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Telephone interview with 'Ovadya Sofer, ambassador to France, by Dan Shilon and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [Shilon] Francois Mitterrand will indeed meet with Yasir 'Arafat in France. 'Ovadya Sofer, Israel's ambassador to France, is on the line. Good evening to you.

[Sofer] Good evening.

[Shilon] The Israeli requests have been to no avail and we are faced with a fait accompli, are we not?

[Sofer] It is a fact that such a meeting has indeed been scheduled, although its timing has not yet been set. I am relying on the contacts I have had and those I will have.

[Shilon] Are you still trying to prevent it?

[Sofer] I think the meeting is unavoidable, but I am doing my best to explain to my French hosts and—first and foremost—to the French president, as well as to the French foreign minister with whom I will meet tonight, that if France is to have a constructive part in the peace process, it must consider Israel's stands, as Israel is 50 percent of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

[Shilon] It is reasonable to assume that the French will tell you: What do you want from us, the Americans are the ones who started this.

[Sofer] Baker's statements doubtlessly had a considerable influence on trends in the Elysee, that is, on the president. On the other hand, I am trying to explain to them that the problem is one of survival. The establishment of a second Palestinian state in the very center of Israel, at the distance of...[changes thought] Speaking on television today, I illustrated the distance by showing on a map that the distance between the sea and the borders of such a state would not exceed six lengths of Avenue de Champs Elysees. [passage omitted]

[Dan] Mitterrand is about to become chairman of the 12 EC countries. Should we not be concerned about this?

[Sofer] There is no doubt that we are worried; there is no doubt that Europe is courting 'Arafat; there is no doubt that Western leaders—including the United States—are vying for a part in the Middle East scene. Our job is to continue opposing this trend, at the same time exposing the faults and discrepancies in the statements of 'Arafat and his aides. [passage omitted]

Protests to Dumas

TA3003064389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The Israeli ambassador in Paris, 'Ovadya Sofer, last night met Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and protested over President Mitterrand's decision to meet Yasir 'Arafat. Dumas told Sofer the president has decided on the date for the meeting and announced it would be in Paris to avoid rumors of such a meeting every time he left for a trip abroad. [passage omitted]

Shomron: No Soviet Policy Change in Syria Visit

TA3003055889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] The chief of the General Staff does not believe that the Soviet defense minister's visit to Damascus denotes a change in Soviet policy. He told our correspondent Karmela Menashe, however, that a new arms deal between the two countries is in the works. In the framework of this deal, Syria will receive modern weapons systems, such as the Sukhoi-24.

USSR To Release 'Hundreds of Thousands of Jews'

TA3003110989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Joel Rebibo]

[Text] The Soviet Union is on the verge of releasing "many, many hundreds of thousands of Jews," Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said in Jerusalem last night.

"We're on the verge of a great exodus," he told the closing session of the Jewish National Fund of America's fourth national assembly in the Laromme Hotel. "We can expect a tremendous immigration in the order of hundreds of thousands, and I'm being conservative."

Netanyahu said that the USSR's decision to release Jews and hundreds of thousands of others is based on its desire to change its image and on the realization that most countries will close their doors to massive Soviet immigration.

"The Soviets have examined the situation and know that only two countries will open their gates... One of them is Germany, which will accept all Germans and expatriates, and the other is Israel."

Netanyahu added that in the past year 10,000 Soviet tourists, mostly Jews, had visited Israel and returned to Russia with favourable impressions.

He stressed that Israel would have to develop the resources to absorb the immigrants and would have to "cut out the bureaucracy in absorption."

The absorption of hundreds of thousands of Russian Jews would be "an opportunity to give us a boost to launch Israel into the 21st century with rejuvenated power," the deputy minister concluded.

Arab Charged With Spying for Stealing Documents

TA3003112489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] Mahmud Masrawah, a security guard from Baqa al-Garbiyya, has been charged with aggravated espionage for stealing confidential documents from a company employed by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and police to shred classified material.

The charges against Masrawah, 41—that he stole documents to publish them abroad and harm state security—were disclosed for the first time yesterday during the opening day of his trial in Tel Aviv District Court.

His attorney, Avigdor Feldman, said that Masrawah denied all the charges.

The prosecution claims that in July 1987 Masrawah stole from the Amnir company in Bene Beraq several confidential documents, which he allegedly held in a private warehouse. The charge sheet did not state how Masrawah acquired the alleged documents from Amnir.

State prosecuter Avraham Tal told the court that Masrawah took apart a confidential book he had stolen and sent it in several separate envelopes to a man called "John," a member of an organization called "Militant," a left-wing faction of the British Labour party which was to have made the confidential information public through its newspaper published under the same name.

Tal asked the court not to permit publication of the exact charges since they might expose a serious breach of security exploited by the defendant, and thus endanger state security.

Feldman maintained that the "foulup" at Amnir which caused the breach had been corrected and could not be considered a threat now.

Amnir yesterday published a statement saying that it processes over 150 tons of paper daily and only a part of this amount is considered classified material to be treated with maximum security. The documents discussed in the trial were not brought to Amnir labelled classified, said the statement.

Masrawah is also charged with an arson attempt and with holding and carrying arms. The prosecutor said that Masrawah prepared fire-bombs on five different occasions and on three occasions threw such bombs near the Israbeton factory in Ramat Gan where he was employed as a guard.

British Labour MP [Member of Parliament] Dave Nellist, here for the opening of the trial, maintained last night that the real reason for Masrawah's arrest was his political and trade union activities. Nellist, who claims to represent 200 British MPs, European MPs, trade union leaders and lawyers in 20 countries, said: "I believe it is a major breakthough that the trial is now open and not held in camera."

Knesset Approves State Budget After 'Showdown'

TA3003113889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Excerpt] The Knesset yesterday approved the NIS [new Israeli shekels] 52.9 billion state budget after a showdown between the Labour Party Knesset faction and the party's leadership.

The budget that was approved included no allocations for the ultra-Orthodox parties, the kibbutzim, or settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The passage of the budget without the additional allocations was a victory for MK [Knesset Member] Hayim Ramon, the head of Labour's Knesset faction, and Mikha Harish, chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee and the party's secretary-general. The two withstood heavy pressure from Finance Minister Peres and the rest of the party's ministers, who wanted to reach a compromise with the religious parties which would provide a special allocation of NIS 47 million to religious institutions. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 30 March adds: "Finance Minister Shim'on Peres says the new budget approved last night by the Knesset cuts into the reserves to the tune of 200 million shekels; 150 million have gone to finance agricultural settlements, 35 million for Jewish settlements in the administered territories, and an additional 15 million shekels have been allocated to religious parties. He said that an additional 90 million shekels are planned to be transferred to the Koor conglomerate. Peres said that 150-200 million shekels will be saved by reducing interest rates."]

'Awn Rejects Arab League Proposal on Blockade

JN2903134889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] While consultations on the Lebanese crisis continue here, it was learned from a well informed source in the six-member Arab League committee that intensive efforts have been made by the committee to achieve a cease-fire in Lebanon on the basis of reaching a solution, even temporary, to the problem of the blockade imposed on the ports by one side.

After the Arab League Council urged the Lebanese warring parties to cease fire and stop bloodshed yesterday, another important contact was made with General Michel 'Awn. This included a proposal by the committee that Gen 'Awn agree to lift the blockade on the nationalist ports for a limited period of time—2 or 3 months—during which time the concerned Lebanese forces can adjust their situation as Gen 'Awn himself did when he needed a period of no less than 5 months to begin to act.

The committee hoped that Gen 'Awn would respond to this call on the basis that any solution to the problem of the blockade of the ports—even if temporary or partial—will greatly help entrench a permanent cease-fire. Indeed, contact was made with Gen 'Awn with the attendance of Lebanese leading figures who are supporters of Gen 'Awn. However, Gen 'Awn rejected the proposal and insisted on his position and to continue the blockade of ports on the basis that he is acting legitimately.

Contacts were halted temporarily at that level. I then learned that the six-member committee is studying the possibility of bringing proposals for other alternative solutions to achieve a cease-fire.

Meanwhile, the Syrian side is still blaming Gen 'Awn for the continuous military escalation.

'Awn Sends Message to Envoys on Syrian Attacks

NC2903195789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn today sent a message to the great powers' ambassadors accredited to Lebanon. In his message, Gen 'Awn said: The Syrian occupation Army relentlessly continues to carry out its bestial attacks on residential areas and vital installations in the eastern area despite the Lebanese Army's abiding by the orders of Prime Minister Gen 'Awn, the Ministry of National Defense, and the Lebanese Army command not to return the fire in order to facilitate the Arab good offices committee's mission and in response to the Arab League Council's appeal for a cease-fire.

The latest of these attacks is the concentrated Syrian bombardment of wheat silos in Beirut's port. These attacks, according to confirmed reports, are part of a Syrian plan which provides for tightening the siege of the eastern areas and for striking at all vital installations such as power generating plants, the water authority, and fuel reservoirs to create a living crisis and starve the people. In light of this bestial inhumane plan, we urge all countries to intercede and force the Syrian occupation Army to abide by the cease-fire or at least to respect the international treaties and charters regarding a war between two countries which prohibit shelling of civilians and residential areas and starving people.

It should be recalled that today Gen 'Awn met with the ambassadors of Spain, Italy, the United States, and France.

VOL Reports 'Awn 29 Mar News Conference

NC2903191889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has emphasized the Lebanese constants and the battle of liberation. He drew attention to the Army's abiding by the cease-fire decision, and described the Syrian Army as a terrorist Army. Gen 'Awn continued: Europe is closer to us than the United States. He declared that there is no return to the past because this is bound to change the Lebanese infrastructure and consolidate partition.

At a news conference held at 1700 today, Gen 'Awn said: We are waiting for the Syrian stand, and we are continuing to abide by the cease-fire despite the violations and the shelling of the wheat silos and the St. Charles Hospital. We will convey this matter to the UN Security Council and the Arab League.

Gen 'Awn continued: We have responded to Arab mediation efforts and given orders to cease fire. But after 7 hours, we were surprised by the indiscriminate bombardment.

'Awn added that while in office, former Presidents Sulayman Franjiyah, Ilyas Sarkis, and Amin al-Jumayyil were subjected to shellfire at the B'abda Presidential Palace. Bashir al-Jumayyil was killed on his way there.

'Awn noted that ambassadors visited the palace to meet with him after requesting to convey their countries' positive and encouraging stands. He added that Lebanon is closer to Europe than the United States. The prime minister expressed regret that U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy had only noticed one single Syrian shell's falling on his residence but had failed to notice hundreds of shells falling on the periphery of his residence and thousands falling on the heads of citizens. The ambassador should have been more courageous.

Gen 'Awn emphasized that the Lebanese people who reside in the occupied areas do not respond to the Syrian occupation, which is still trying to create antagonism between the Lebanese. He noted that those collaborating with the occupation forces can neither legally nor realistically cover up for the occupation. He added: We have begun the battle of liberation.

Alluding to those who claim responsibility and who are spokesmen for Syria in Lebanon, Gen 'Awn said: These agents are at the prime ministerial or ministerial level, and they are no longer assuming a leading or official position because they betrayed citizens and their livelihood. There is no return to the past, because any such return would change Lebanon's infrastructure and would prompt partition and financial collapse.

Asked if there is a compromise solution, Gen 'Awn said that there can be no compromise solution in such matters. He added: If the ports issue had not existed, they would have created another problem or another reason. The reopening of legal ports and the closure of illegal ports reflected improvement, particularly in the economic sphere. This step was a gift for relaxing tension, but they rejected it. If such a step is rejected, how would they react if we asked for our basic rights?

Gen 'Awn pointed out that Dr Salim al-Huss has persistently distorted facts and covered up Syrian practices. He advised Dr al-Huss to leave Beirut.

Gen 'Awn described the Syrian Army as a terrorist Army. Like other terrorist organizations, it should not be confronted militarily but by acts of terrorism. [as heard] This Army is shelling indiscriminately to pressure the citizens. The Syrian Army's attacks are confined to institutions, houses, and vital installations. He reiterated his request to the countries concerned to implement previous resolutions that had not been revoked and to honor their signatures.

Answering a question on the Lebanese Army's potential for steadfastness, the prime minister said: You have to work with a nail before pulling it. We must depend on ourselves. We have seen how the world has begun to act.

The prime minister explained to his audience: We are not independent. Independence was a lie. No president was ever elected by our own will. This was the first time we tried to elect a president by our own will. The beginning was on 18 September 1988. The new president must be elected by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, not by the United States or Syria.

Asked whether there is an intention to submit a complaint, Prime Minister 'Awn said: We will use all legal means. I want to explain something. Some people say 'Awn is escalating the situation. Let me suppose this is true. I have the right to take the initiative and shell the occupier. This is an internationally recognized right.

Asked how much longer the situation will last, he said: There is no time limit. There is nothing but steadfastness, and he who is strong and brave will continue the march.

We now hear a recorded excerpt from the prime minister's news conference:

[Begin recording] The Syrian Army is not an army according to internationally recognized standards. This is a terrorist army. A terrorist army, like a terrorist regime, does not use internationally accepted military methods. It resorts to terrorism. The Syrian Army is shelling civilians and public buildings in order to pressure citizens.

I am sorry that this situation exists, that there is all this pressure on civilians in Lebanon. The Lebanese Army personnel who are doing the fighting are fighting back and beating the Syrians, but they are not being targeted by shelling. All the shells are falling behind them.

I am surprised. The Arabs have paid billions [currency not specified] in aid to the Syrian Army in order to achieve a strategic parity with Israel. But this Army does nothing except shell public establishments, ministerial buildings, residential buildings, and fuel tanks. The Syrian Army is like a naughty boy who plays with matches and sets the forest on fire. Give it guns and it shows ['Awn laughs] its bravery by shelling fuel tanks. There is no need for the Syrian Army to come here in order for the fuel tanks to catch fire. Neglect fire safety rules a bit, and the fuel tanks will catch fire.

The [Lebanese] issue has been internationalized for a long time, not just recently. I call for the UN resolutions to be implemented. Whatever the situation, be it Arab or international, I call for the UN resolutions to be implemented.

As I said in a previous meeting with newsmen, we have resolutions passed by the Security Council numbering 425 to 520. All these resolutions deal with Lebanon—from the deployment of the UN forces in the South to the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. We also have the stands of the Lebanese Government in 1982 and 1983, as well as Arab resolutions recommending negotiations with Syria on withdrawing its forces from Lebanon.

Therefore, all these resolutions exist. Al-Huss reaches the peak of legal heresy when he first claims that he is the prime minister, and second, that only a national unity government can ask the Syrians to withdraw from Lebanon. This is as if no Lebanese Government had asked for this withdrawal except his government or my government. I am not asking anyone to meet and adopt a new stand. I am calling for the implementation of previous resolutions, which have not been cancelled and are still recognized on regional and international levels.

We are asking the great nations, above all the United States, to honor their signatures. [end recording]

'Awn To Buy Arms From Iraq if 'Need' Arises

NC3003080189 Paris AFP in English 0700 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, March 30 (AFP)—[Passage omitted] Talking to reporters Wednesday, Gen. 'Awn described Syria as a "terrorist state" and reaffirmed his aim of driving Syrian troops out of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Praising Iraq, the general said that Baghdad was helping Lebanon regain its independence. But he denied purchasing Iraqi arms to date.

"We have not yet accepted arms and ammunition from this country, but if the need arises, I will do so without hesitation," Gen. 'Awn said.

He charged the pro-Syrian Muslim and leftist camp in Lebanon of being "agents who collaborate with the occupation army and betray the homeland." [passage omitted]

Reportage on Attacks by Syrian Occupation Forces

Rockets Fall in Christian Areas

NC2903174789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1738 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Syrian rocket launchers deployed in Al-Shuwayfat and 'Aramun are still bombarding the eastern [Christian] areas. So far 120 rockets have fallen in Al-Hazimiyah, Al-Mukallis, the Al-Matn Coast, and the Kasrawan Coast. A number of people have been wounded in the Al-Matn areas as a result of this Syrian treachery.

Envoys' Houses, Embassies Hit

NC2903183789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] This afternoon, Lebanese Army posts in the mountain came under a Syrian military barrage that extended from the combat lines into residential areas in Al-Kahhalah, Wadi Shahrur, and 'Arayya. Several shells fell in Furn al-Shubbak at 1600, and four shells landed in the Nahr Bayrut area and another in Mar Mikhayil at 1645, leaving three people slightly injured. One shell fell in Mar Mikhayil and another in Beirut Port at 1800.

A French photographer, Alan Morkis, was injured by a Syrian shell in Suq al-Gharb and was taken to Qalb Yasu' Hospital for treatment. A Syrian tank was destroyed on the Dahr al-Wahsh-'Alayh front. A rocket exploded near the electricity company building in the Mar Mikhayil area at about 1445 today, and a little later, a rocket fell in the Beirut Port area.

The violation of the cease-fire began in the morning when the Syrians fired shells at most areas in East Beirut including Kasrawan, B'abda, Al-Hadath, Kafr Shima, Al-Yarzah, and Al-Jumhur. The Presidential Palace in B'abda and the Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzah were hit. It is worth noting that the Syrian bombardment did not spare ambassadors' homes. In addition to the U.S. ambassador's home, the home of the British Ambassador in Al-Rabiyah was shelled on Monday night, the Saudi ambassador's home on Tuesday night, the Belgian Embassy on Tuesday morning, and the Turkish Embassy on Tuesday and Saturday.

'Violent' Fighting in Beirut

NC2903194389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1933 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk: Violent clashes involving rockets and machineguns are currently raging along the old commercial area's combat lines. Shells are falling in the Mar Mikhayil area and along the river road.

VOL Updates Casualty Toll

NC2903213189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] The Syrian attacks on the free areas during the past 24 hours have left 6 people dead and 24 others wounded. AFP reported that 3 people were killed and 19 wounded in today's clashes.

USSR Defense Minister Visits Army Units

JN2903200889 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Within the framework of his visit to the country, Dmitriy Yazov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member and USSR defense minister, and the delegation accompanying him, visited one of our combat units. He was accompanied by General 'Ali Aslan, Army and Armed Forces deputy chief of staff.

At the entrance to the formation's camp, he was received by Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; the formation commander; and a number of its officers.

After the formation commander welcomed them, he explained the structure and activities of the formation and its tasks. Then a practical demonstration with live ammunition was carried out by one of the formation's combat units. The visiting minister praised the success of the demonstration and the readiness of training and combat preparedness in this formation and wished it all success and progress.

This morning, the visiting delegation visited Latakia accompanied by Gen Hasan Turkmani, Army and Armed Forces deputy chief of staff. Upon arrival at Latakia airport, the visiting delegation was received by the major general commander of the Coastal Area and commander of the Naval Forces; the major general deputy commander of the Air Forces and Air Defense; and a number of Coastal Area officers.

The visiting delegation toured a naval formation and another formation from Air Defense. The delegation was briefed on their activities and wished the two formations—officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers—continued success in high combat readiness. [passage omitted]

East European Sources Comment

JN2903181389 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Mar 89 pp 1, 20

[Excerpts] Damascus, AL-ITTIHAD and agencies—Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas yesterday met with USSR Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov and the delegation accompanying him shortly after his arrival in Damascus on the first visit by a senior Soviet military official to Syria in 17 years. [passage omitted]

East European diplomatic sources in Damascus have asserted to AL-ITTIHAD that the USSR defense minister's 4-day visit to Syria at the invitation of his Syrian counterpart will constitute an important point to confirm and entrench Soviet-Syrian military relationships.

These sources said that the Soviet stand toward improving Syria's technical and military expertise is a constant factor in relations between the two countries, although differences in political viewpoints may emerge at times.

These sources pointed out that the Soviet defense minister's visit, which followed the recent visit by USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Damascus, confirms that the two visits complement each other.

These sources asserted that Damascus will ask the Soviet side to improve all types of Syrian weapons on the basis of the Syrian leadership's continuous affirmation that strategic parity is the basis to achieve a just and peaceful solution in the Middle East region.

The Syrian military leadership surrounds the visit and its importance with great silence. When AL-ITTIHAD asked Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas about the importance of the visit at the current time, he said that the subjects and issues that will be discussed during the visit are secrets and one cannot talk about its importance and results to the media. [passage omitted]

Trade Union Leader Meets USSR Counterpart

JN3003074889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Damascus—Comrade 'Izz al-Din Nasir, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and president of the General Federation of Trade Unions [GFTU], received a delegation representing the Soviet All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions [AUCCTU] under Comrade Vladimir Lomonosov, AUCCTU deputy chairman.

Comrade Nasir briefed the guest delegation on the trade union movement in Syria, and its effective role in shaping the new socialist society, particularly its effective contribution to the formulation of economic and social decisions that are made at state level. Comrade Nasir praised the solid and good relations that exist between the GFTU and the AUCCTU in all fields. He affirmed the need to promote these relations in a manner that will serve the two trade unions' interests in the two fraternal countries.

For his part, Comrade Lomonosov said he is happy to visit Syria, and to become acquainted with the achievements scored by the Syrian working class, achievements which have made it assume vanguard positions in Syria. He denounced the destruction that has befallen Al-Qunaytirah at the hands of the Zionist occupation forces.

Al-Shar' Returns From Arab League Tunis Meeting

JN3003072089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Tunis this evening after heading the Syrian Arab delegation to the 91st Arab League Council session.

Al-Zu'bi Addresses Assembly on Development Plan

JN2903082889 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Government statement on the implementation of the development plan and the promotion of production in 1988 up to February 1989 delivered by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at the People's Assembly in Damascus on 28 March—recorded]

[Text] Speaker of the People's Assembly, ladies and gentlemen: My government today presents to your esteemed Assembly an account of its activities. This report will be brief as we cannot go into details on every point. However, what this report contains represents a general overview accompanied by facts and figures about the projects completed, production rates, and trends that guided the government—the ministries and establishments—in order to achieve the prime targets in accordance with the progress of the development plan and the yearly development program steps in line with the allowed timeframe and the funds assigned. The government has always been careful that every action and project should follow this program and its requirements. It is natural for the continuous meetings between the Assembly and government to be an expression of a popular democratic system and an embodiment of ideal cooperation between the two authorities.

The government presents its plans, programs, and policies to implement the Party's decisions and the directives of our leader, President Hafiz al-Asad, to your esteemed Assembly for you to discuss, draw comparisons, scrutinize, supervise, and guide its steps for the sole object of building the homeland, serving the people, and finding the best ways to bolster the development process. We always feel that by its discussions and guidelines, this Assembly reflects the results and leads to the selection of the best methods sought by all of us through cooperation, prompted by strong confidence in the possibilities of our people, in the plans of our party—the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party—in our National Progressive Front, and in our national economy which proved its cohesiveness, balance, and ability to develop under all circumstances.

We are also motivated by confidence in the faithful producers of this homeland, who are translating into practice through their efforts and initiatives the slogan of self-reliance as dictated by our country's national values, firm principles and stands, and independent will in exercising its pan-Arab role. We thus take as an example President Hafiz al-Asad's words that the sense of responsibility makes us realize the value of our work and makes us determined to assume it. We can here say that responsibility is a popular, ethical, and national responsibility. From this introduction of the government's report, which is presented to your Assembly for discussion, I do not want to repeat what is contained in the report or go into details. I am doing so because I deem it necessary to highlight the economic, production, and financial framework which led to decisionmaking, as well as the method used to implement this decision from the peak of the administrative pyramid down to its base. The experience we have had since 1988 required concentration and depth, as well as a number of measures that were taken by the government. We were in a race with time, which did not allow for extensive reviewing or for a delayed or postponed solution. Results should be achieved on time because on them depends, for instance, the exploitation of an agricultural season in the best possible way or the operation of a stumbling factory.

Agricultural or industrial needs should be secured on time as any shortage or delay would render them useless. Exports should cover the costs of imports. Financial expenditures should be curtailed in an unproductive sector and expanded in productive sectors. This will eventually lead to an indispensible, financial, economic, and productive balance. We are in dire need of achieving a balance in every aspect of our economic and social life until we can gain control of all aspects of this balance in the overall production and consumption activites so that our national economy becomes an impregnable edifice in the face of global economic and financial conditions everywhere, particularly in this region, which is under all types of economic and political pressures.

Ladies and gentlemen, I can say that from the beginning we made an overall as well as partial assessment of the various economic and production aspects, sector by sector, institution by institution, and issue by issue. As you know, the meetings, studies, and field visits to the production and work sites in all governorates are part of the hard work and constant effort by all the government members.

As a result, we have defined the formulas selected for the best use for all the available productive energies and potentials and for the required programs. Due to cooperation among all sides and the efforts of all the producers and workers, who directed their attention to applying the concept of self-reliance and to the spread of the spirit of responsibility, we overcame many routine and bureaucratic obstacles and managed to promote coordination among the concerned sides in each project.

We also managed to take further steps toward achieving financial and economic stability, as well as production stability. We still view this as short of our aspirations. However, this gives us hope that we will achieve more and take further steps toward our goal. This also makes us confident that our national economy certainly has potentials that cannot be ignored and energies that should not be paralyzed. These potentials and energies are able to make the graph of agriculture, industry, construction, and effective investment in the public, joint, and private sectors rise steadily and also make it a serious and responsible move to improve services in this country. The past stage's positive results indicate that we are all cooperating and can achieve much for this steadfast and generous people.

Speaker of the Assembly, ladies and gentlemen, as I said, the government's goal is to remove obstacles that prevent the discovery and implementation of solutions because every problem contains the seeds of its own solution if it is reformulated realistically. The infrastructure of economic and social development is strong. It is represented in land, road, airways, water, and electricity networks, airports, ports, establishments, transportation, and various services. However, completing this infrastructure is most important. Along with this infrastructure, it is important to expand the production basis in the agricultural and industrial areas, to exploit the natural resources such as oil, gas, and the other mineral wealth, and to expand this basis and its productive capability because this is the main factor in the national economy.

The government also concentrated on production in terms of quality and quantity, paying attention at the same time to the promotion of services, including education and the supply of potable water and electricity to urban and rural areas. This year, we have begun a new plan for technological and vocational education that can make the goals of education more harmonious with the general development and the economic and social development plan.

In general, we can say that the main goals are represented in giving a great priority to agriculture by exploiting water resources in the best manner, building large, medium, and small dams, completing the irrigation and sewage networks, increasing the irrigated and cultivated areas of land, cultivating fallow land, providing the requirements of agricultural production such as money and machinery, strictly following the agricultural plans, drawing up a flexible price policy for agricultural production and harvests, adhering to timetables for land reclamation, and concentrating on ways to overcome any obstacles pertaining to the cultivation and fertilization of land and the marketing and storing of the harvest.

Last year we succeeded in drawing up a comprehensive plan to deal with the agricultural problems and secure agricultural requirements, giving priority to the land, water, farm and agricultural crops in our decisions and measures. The feasible results of last year's agricultural season has led to drawing up an early agricultural plan for 1989, which we hope will be crowned with success, God willing.

In the industrial sector, the government's efforts focused on dealing with issues related to every industrial establishment, securing the requirements of its production and operation with their available resources, and giving priority to industries using local materials and those fulfilling the country's basic needs. The government's efforts also focused on promoting the role of the public sector and supporting the continued performance of its leading and basic role. There was a regular and continuous follow-up of all technical aspects of factories and installations.

A comprehensive industrial classification was made and the industries needed by Syria, depending on the available local materials and resources, were defined in order to pave the way for the mixed, cooperative, and private sectors to play their role in accordance with the development plans and within the framework of a general plan for national economy based on an integrated and not competitive basis. Industrial licensing measures were simplified and measures were taken to attract investment in the industrial and agricultural sectors. Foreign currency appropriations were earmarked according to the priorities of operating factories that produce important and basic commodities for the agricultural sector so that some sort of intergration can be achieved between the agricultural and industrial sectors. There was strong concentration on increasing, diversifying, and improving production and removing the obstacles impeding the exportation of industrial products, giving attention to increasing job opportunities for the labor force.

Thus, you realize that the government's efforts in the agricultural and industrial sectors have really led to considerable results that are evident in improved and increased production, fulfilling industrial and food needs, and creating an active industry which is expected to further satisfy the local market needs of commodities and exports to foreign markets next year.

All this was accompanied on the financial level by a trend toward rationalizing current and investment expenditure, while securing the necessary financial demands that have a productive nature, resolving financial complications among the economic establishments, settling all the past years' budgets and accounting accumulations, amending the valid tax legislation in a manner that improves taxes, and developing the financial mechanism. The 1988 budget was exemplary in comparison with previous years. It had distinctive features, the most important of which was the attainement of a balance between revenues and expenditure and a contribution in restoring a balance between the investments of the commodity sectors and those linked to them and the services sectors.

As for the foreign trade sector, the economic programming was evident through several integrated decisions whose purpose was to rationalize imports and consumption, encourage exports, expand their channels, and diversify the exported goods. The effects of the economic programming were reflected in the agricultural and industrial sectors whose productive establishments were committed to self-initiated plans for production and importation. Imports decreased and were confined to the needs of the agricultural and industrial requirements, such as drugs and certain foodstuffs. Exports increased and the traditional deficit in the balance of payments was decreased, thus setting an example for the balances of payment of the coming years and entrenching the country's ability to translate into practice the slogan of self-reliance, and removing existing obstacles in order to achieve a better balance between imports and exports, production, and consumption.

On the level of services, the government's efforts were basically directed toward following up the basic programs to expand education, particularly in the field of securing the needs of the technological and vocational education plan, and completing the installations and equipment required by the various stages of education and higher education. The health sector enjoyed great attention. Hospitals and health centers were completed and efforts focused on expanding the pharmaceutical industry and completing the supply of factories with direct pharmaceutical production lines. A pharmaceutical policy guide has been drawn up under which the basic medicines were listed, made availabe, and distributed in an improved manner. The production rates in the public sector's plants were noticeably upgraded.

The growing production of electric power, as well as reducing the misuse of this power, have led to a satisfactory stability in industrial and social use of electric power in the country. This was coupled with organizing the institutions of supply and internal trade, providing the needed basic commodities, increasing the production of manufactured foodstuffs, improving the quality of bread, and making the centers of distribution and internal trade more organized and comprehensive. These measures meet the requirments of all the governorates. The government is still strictly following up the issue of supply because it is related to the life of the masses, especially those with limited income.

In light of the projects implemented or under implementation in the areas of transportation, communications, tourism, and housing as well as providing potable water, dealing with environmental problems to confront the dangers of pollution, following up educational activities—especially the implementation of plans to combat illiteracy—and improving services in the various areas of social activity in urban and rural areas, we can say that development in this field is registering considerable progress. In addition to this progress, the growth in population, the expansion of facilities, and the variety of needs in all governorates compels us to continue projects to meet these needs. We believe that the promotion of these services is the government's basic duty toward the popular masses in this country.

Speaker of the Assembly, ladies and gentlemen, in this introductiuon, I only wanted to explain some outlines of the report presented to your esteemed Assembly and to refer to issues of an economic and production nature in particular—issues which affect some financial and budgets issues. We draw attention to these two issues as they are important in defining the way the government has been pursuing and demonstrating the efforts exerted by the government and the public sector, both of which deserve our thanks and appreciation for achieving economic cohesion and balance. As you know, a strong and cohesive international structure is the axis of power in this country represented by its positions and confrontation of foreign challenges.

In this region Syria has a special, firm, and principled position as well as a pan-Arab view. All the events in this region and the Arab homeland are affected by the criteria and ideals of this view. Syria's firm policies are true pan-Arab policies that make Syria's people, party, and National Progressive Front under the great Arab leader Hafiz al-Asad responsible for any Arab issue. This sense of pan-Arab responsibility in Syria's policy forces every side that tries to peddle plans in conflict with the Arab nation's interests to consider Syria's steadfast position.

At the same time, we know the challenges to this position—challenges which equal the Arab nation's problems and contemporary causes. Therefore, our concept stems from our belief that the Arab-Israeli conflict is the basic conflict and that Israel is the principal enemy of the Arab nation. This conflict, with all its complications, requires an effective Arab solidarity to prevent Israel from achieving its expansionist ambitions and Zionist dreams.

Therefore, in his latest speech, President Hafiz al-Asad stressed this point. He said: "The Arab-Israeli conflict is our major concern. It is natural that it draws most of our attention because it is a conflict of fate and survival." It is obvious that Syria's pan-Arab strategy, with which it always confronts Israel's aggressive and expansionist political and military plans, constitutes a real obstacle for the enemy, and that Syria, which is eager to achieve a just peace in the region, is aware that Israel does not want any form of peace in the region.

The brave uprising of our people in the occupied territories is still strong and steadfast in the face of the occupation forces and their brutal practices, promotes the Palestine question, and exposes the Zionist face of Israel in the international arena and before world public opinion. Syria will continue to support the uprising and will continue to be a strength for the Palestinian and the pan-Arab struggle. It will also prevent turning the clock back in Lebanon, cut off the way of the separatists, and promote national accord among all the sons of Lebanon to achieve their goals.

The reformist method and the constructive dialogue are a strong basis for the effective national charter that can guarantee Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, unity, and genuine Arab affiliation. Syria will continue to strengthen all climates that can create factors enabling this region, through Arab solidarity and cooperation, to confront all challenges and remove obstacles that prevent the

Arab nation's will to achieve real unity. Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, is a strong pillar for this will and for this great nation which aspires to a comprehensive unity.

Speaker of the Assembly, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for what you have done in the past and for your current sincere efforts to carry out the duty entrusted to you by the people. We also stress the importance of the existing close cooperation between your esteemed Assembly and the government, hoping that the development report will be discussed and enriched with your remarks and suggestions, which the governemnt will always consider, to serve this homeland and promote its Arab and international position. Peace be upon you.

Afghanistan

Hikmatyar: Mujahidin Reject 'Peaceful Solution'

JN2903174589 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Mar 89 p 3

[Excerpt] Peshawar—Isma'il al-Fakhrani and agencies—Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, foreign minister of the Afghan mujahidin government, expects the capital, Kabul, to fall before Jalalabad. He told AL-ITTIHAD that the long-term tight siege that has been imposed by the mujahidin on the capital and the direct popular pressure against the Kabul government, in addition to the acute differences among commanders of the government's Army, indicate that Kabul will fall soon, and before Jalalabad. Hikmatyar again denied that he was injured during Jalalabad battles as was reported by news agencies on the day before yesterday.

Regarding the latest developments in Jalalabad battles, Hikmatyar said that yesterday, the mujahidin managed to conquer two posts around Jalalabad airport. He added that the morale is high, the resistance is progressing continuously and is preparing for a decisive onslaught very soon, and that the mujahidin are now fighting a battle with heavy weapons and tanks which they captured from Division 11 in Samar Kheyl.

Hikmatyar also talked to AL-ITTIHAD about the other fronts. He said Qandahar is now witnessing fierce battles, particularly around the airport. The mujahidin also took control of a number of posts in Khowst area.

Regarding the Soviet moves toward peaceful solutions to the Afghan problem, Hikmatyar said: The Soviet Union is now maneuvering with many countries with which we have strong relations in an attempt to pressure us into accepting a peaceful solution. However, we are confident that the jihad and mujahidin-loving states will not accept this. They know that we reject a peaceful solution with the communist government.

Hikmatyar asserted that the mujahidin government did not receive any reports or official moves from the states with which the Soviet Union is endeavoring to make them mediate to convince the mujahidin to accept a peaceful solution. [passage omitted]

Rebel Ammunition, Weapons Seized in Nangarhar

LD2903170389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] State security organs recently uncovered and seized a quantity of weapons and ammunition in the Qasemabad and Gamberi desert regions of Nangarhar Province. The goods were stored by extremist groups linked to Pakistan. The BIA military section reports that light and heavy weapons and rifle and missile warheads are among the goods seized.

Kabul Details Military Operations 28-29 Mar

LD2903175689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] The enemy fired 800 missiles and heavy weapon shells on Jalalabad city and the surrounding areas during the past 24 hours. A knowledgeable Armed Forces source told the BAKHTAR military section that joint forces of the Pakistani invaders and groups linked to it fired long-range heavy weapons at Jalalabad city and surrounding regions as well as at defense lines, from various directions. As a result, 5 local people were martyred and 11 others, mostly women and children, were wounded.

During retaliatory actions against enemy lines and their depots by the units and companies of the Afghan Armed Forces, 137 enemy troops, including commander (?Sadr) and 4 Saudi Arabian advisers, were killed and other 56 others were wounded. In addition, 15 enemy rocket launchers, 4 mortars, 5 missiles, 2 Sukur-20 missiles, a large quantity of light weapons, and 2 trucks carrying weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

According to reports from the rear lines of the enemy, more than 100 Pakistani militiamen, wearing different uniforms, are actively participating in the battle of Nangarhar. Among others, Sobadar Adam Khan, Sobadar Mahmud Khan, Sabadar Hamid Chawdri, Hawaladar Ahmad Hoseyn, and Hawaladar Qadir have been taking part in battles in Shiveh, Chaprahar, Sorkh Rud, Pol-e Saracha, and Rodat regions with the extremists. So far there has been no news about their fate. World press and eyewitnesses reports from Peshawar and border regions say that all private and state hospitals and clinics as well as international humanitarian organizations are full of wounded. The reports add that there are so many wounded that the local people and the refugees have been deprived of medical services in these hospitals.

According to another report, extremists linked to Pakistan have fired heavy weapons at Khowst city and parts of Paktia Province, Ghazni, Faryab, and Herat cities and suburbs as a result of which 4 children were martyred and one soldier of the Armed Forces in Khowst was wounded.

The report adds that as a result of retaliatory strikes by the artillery forces in Herat and Faryab Province, 12 extremists linked to Pakistan were killed and one mortar, one DShk, and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition were seized.

Another report states that as a result of mopping up operations and searches by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan in parts of Qandahar Province, eight armed extremists were killed and three were wounded. During the operations, 5 enemy mortars, 7 recoilless guns, and 4 DShK's were destroyed and 150 antipersonnel mines and thousands of DShK ammunition rounds, and 52 mortar mines were seized by the Armed Forces.

According to another report, a band linked to the extremist group of Khales, which was engaged in plundering property at Qarghah'i district region along the Laghman-Nangarhar highway was attacked yesterday by the country's Armed Forces, as a result of which six of them were killed and eight severely wounded. One mortar and a large quantity of assorted ammunition were seized by the Armed Forces.

Sayyaf on Government Plans, Jalalabad Battle

PM3003102589 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic
22 Mar 89 pp 1, 19

[Sulayman Hatlan report: "Mujahidin Prime Minister Talks to AL-RIYAD: Defense Ministry in Mujahidin Government Will Be Supervising Operations Within Days"]

[Text] Peshawar—Afghan mujahidin prime minister Prof 'Abd Rabul Rasul Sayyaf has denied reports about his visit to the military front, where the mujahidin forces are besieging Jalalabad, to unify the military commands there.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RIYAD Sayyaf said: I did not go to the front or the combat trenches. I just went to the Afghan border and coordinated with field commanders in Jalalabad by radio to agree on a unified field command that would organize major mujahidin operations against the communist forces in Jalalabad. He added: There is no reason for a sudden visit, because we and the field commanders agree and cooperate. We have one objective and one cause. But I do actually intend to visit them on the front shortly.

AL-RIYAD asked the mujahidin prime minister: What role is the mujahidin defense ministry playing in supervising operations in Jalalabad and organizing and unifying the commands under one command instead of the seven commands with partisan loyalties, especially now that there is an interim mujahidin government?

Professor Sayyaf said: The defense ministry is in the process of being formed and still has not reached a level at which it can assume and perform its duties. We are working to form and organize it and determine the men who will lead work in it. The ministry will then begin to carry out the executive tasks assigned to it. Its final organization will be complete within days. Then it will actually be able to perform its duties and command military operations on the battle fronts.

On the military situation in Jalalabad and reports that the agent regime has used some internationally banned weapons, Professor Sayyaf said: I fear that, if I talk about this matter, I may be asked to provide evidence of it! They, the agent regime, always threaten to use the most dangerous weapons. In a threat message sent to the mujahidin military command one of their leaders said "we still have dangerous weapons!"

He added: The situation is indeed very difficult and the shelling is severe. Cluster bombs seek out the mujahidin everywhere, even in their trenches. Their bombs explode in the air to form several bombs, which in turn explode and cause destruction over a vast area. All means of destruction and incineration are used there, but I have nothing like a "document" to prove to the reader that they have used chemical weapons or poison gas or rays. But it is most likely that they have used them. From the confessions made by communist POW's and experts' testimonies the only thing we can prove is that the agent forces have started to use infrared rays to pinpoint targets! But despite all this, God is great and he is the mightiest and God will help whoever depends on him.

Answering a question by AL-RIYAD about the true present situation at Jalalabad airport, Professor Sayyaf said: The mujahidin have penetrated the airport perimeter and are trying to cut the barbed wire surrounding the airport. A day ago the mujahidin blew up an ammunition dump at the airport and the fire is still raging there. We, however, are very confident that victory will be ours, and within days, God willing.

UN Notified of Pakistani Accords 'Violations'

Protest Notes 349-351

LD2903063389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 28, BAKHTAR—Notices number 349, 350 and 351 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] on violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords especially paras 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12 of Article 2, document number one of the said accords were submitted to the office of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here on Monday.

In the notices strict information on 25 instances of Pakistani violations mainly on the existence of the extremists military training camps in the Pakistani territory, dispatch of caravans of arms and ammunition from Pakistan to extremist and other violations are given. The notices further add that through the use of these armaments the Pakistani authorities escalate war, bloodshed and subversive activities in the RA.

The notices ask UNGOMAP that as per Para 7, Document Number 4 of the Geneva accords assess the mentioned violations.

Protest Notes 352-355

LD3003063789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0427 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 29, BAKHTAR—Notices number 352-355 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were submitted to the office of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here on Tuesday.

Authentic and reliable information on the Kach Gari and Daraban Khurd military training camps in the Pakistani territory where extremists, beside tens of such camps, are trained in the use of arms and ammunition and later sent in to Afghanistan to commit murder and subversive activities are given in the notice 352. Twenty five instances of Pakistani violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords were mentioned in notices number 353-355.

The notices ask UNGOMAP that on the basis of Paragraph 7, Document Number 4 of the Geneva accords investigate the said violations and convey results of its findings to the concerned sides immediately.

India

Reportage on Visit by UK Foreign Secretary Howe

Arrives in Madras 28 Mar

BK2903032689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1915 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] New Delhi, March 28 (AFP)—British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe arrived in the southern Indian city of Madras from Islamabad late Tuesday [28 March], the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Sir Geoffrey was to spend two days in Madras before flying here for three days of talks with Indian leaders. He is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Indian officials said Sir Geoffrey's talks with Indian leaders would focus on bilateral ties and the situation in Asia, particularly Afghanistan and relations between New Delhi and Islamabad.

Sir Geoffrey was greeted on his arrival in Madras by Ashoke Joshi, commissioner and secretary in the state government of Tamil Nadu, of which Madras is the capital, PTI said.

Arrives in Delhi From Madras

BK2903163389 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] The British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, arrived in New Delhi this evening from Madras. He arrived in Madras yesterday from Pakistan on a 4-day visit to India.

At the airport in New Delhi, he was received by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Sir Geoffrey will hold wide-ranging talks with the Indian leaders in the next 2 days.

Comments on Antiterrorism Laws

BK3003031489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] The British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, says Britain shares India's deep concern over terrorism in India and that the recent enactment of antiterrorism laws in his country makes it very difficult for terrorists to raise funds or indulge in terrorist activities.

He told newsmen in Madras that Britain looks forward to better relations between India and Pakistan.

'No Crackdown' on UK Tamils

BK3003111389 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said yesterday that Britain backed an Indian Army effort to help the Sri Lankan Government put down a long struggle of the Tamil separatists.

A REUTER dispatch from Madras quoted the British foreign secretary as saying that there would be no crackdown on Sri Lankan Tamil militants operating from London. He told newsmen in Madras that they cannot take any action against them unless they violate British law or indulge in criminal acts.

Mr Howe, opening a 3-day trip to India after visiting Pakistan, said he has discussed the subject with Muthuvel Karunanidhi, the newly elected chief minister of Tamil Nadu. Mr Howe said his brief meeting with Mr Karunanidhi had largely (?been) about a project to clean up clogged and sinking waterways of Madras.

Meets With Narasimha Rao

BK3003124889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] The visiting British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, today held detailed discussions on the anti-Indian activity on the British soil. An official spokesman told newsmen that Sir Geoffrey referred to the control being exercised by the British Government on the activities of the anti-Indian extremists. He particularly spoke of the recently passed Prevention of Terrorism Act and reiterated his government's determination to combat the terrorist menace. The Indian side desired to have a closer look at the provisions of the British act, particularly those regarding the funding of the terrorists.

Troops in Sri Lanka Number 'About 50,000'

BK3003094689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0930 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] The present strength of the [Indian] Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in Sri Lanka is about 50,000 personnel. Giving this information in the Lok Sabha today, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said that two more battalions of the PKF were withdrawn from Sri Lanka recently.

Narasimha Rao Meets With 3 EEC Ministers

BK2803160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] India has requested the European Economic Community to extend cooperation to combat terrorism. The request was made to the foreign ministers of three EEC countries—Spain, Greece, and France—at their meeting with the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi today. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen that the meeting covered a number of issues, including West Asia, South Africa, Cambodia, and Afghanistan. The three countries form troika of the EEC, which holds political dialogue with the Indian leaders. India is the only country in Asia which is having the annual political discussions with troika at the ministerial level.

Terrorism Problem Discussed

BK2903094289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] The European Economic Committee has expressed its willingness to cooperate with India in tackling terrorism. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, the foreign affairs minister of Spain, Mr Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, said EEC agrees with India on the international ramifications of terrorism. Mr Ordonez, along with the foreign ministers of Greece and France forming the troika group of EEC, had discussed the issue with the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi yesterday.

Replying to a question, the Spanish minister said EEC countries have established a group called (Trevi) to deal with the problem of terrorism. India's views will be forwarded to this group to study the possibility of establishing a channel for cooperation with India on the issue, he said.

Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Continues Visit

2 Agreements Signed

BK2903125089 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Public Relations Department correspondent Tharini Phawasutthikan has reported on Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan's activities during his official visit to India:

At 1020 local time, or about 1200 in Thailand, the prime minister and his party paid a courtesy call on President Venkataraman at the President's House. At 1115, the prime minister and his party went to Rajghat, Shanti Vana, and Shaktisthal to lay wreathes at the cremation sites of Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, and Indira Gandhi.

At about 1600 local time, the prime minister and his party paid a courtesy call on and held official consultations with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Then the Thai and Indian delegations held a meeting followed by the Thai and Indian foreign ministers signing an agreement to set up a joint Thai-Indian committee. This ceremony was followed by another ceremony to receive water purification equipment from India, and to sign a memorandum of understanding between the Petroleum Authority of Thailand and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission of India.

At about 2000 this evening, the Indian prime minister will host a gala dinner in honor of Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and the Thai delegation.

Details of Agreements

BK2903155889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] India and Thailand today took major steps to boost their bilateral cooperation. Two agreements were signed in New Delhi today—one for exploration of oil and natural gas in Thailand and the other for setting up a joint commission. The two countries also decided to upgrade the joint business committee to a joint business council with the participation of both the public and private sectors. India also announced the presentation of two desalinization plants to Thailand.

These decisions were taken at the official-level talks held in New Delhi today between the visiting Thailand prime minister, General Chatchai Chunhawan, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

The Thai prime minister also called on the president and the vice president.

Position on Cambodia Lauded

BK3003030289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] India has expressed the hope that a negotiated political solution will soon be found to resolve the Kampuchean issue. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said the new optimism is generated by the bold initiatives taken by the Thai prime minister, General Chatchai Chunhawan, in opening a dialogue with the concerned parties.

Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting dignitary in New Delhi last night, Mr Gandhi reiterated India's willingness to contribute to the search for a political settlement of the Kampuchean problem.

Referring to bilateral relations, he said the two countries have moved forward along a wide gamut of action in expanding trade, economic collaboration, and cultural exchanges. Mr Gandhi expressed the hope that the current visit of the Thai prime minister will provide a further impetus to broaden the mutual relations.

PRC Team Arrives for Science Cooperation Talks

BK3003032489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] An eight-member official level delegation from China is in New Delhi for the first meeting of Sino-Indian cooperation in science and technology beginning today. This is a follow-up of the agreement signed in Beijing last year when the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, visited China. The meeting will identify areas of mutual interest and also find mechanism for interaction between the scientists and scientific institutions in India and China.

Agreements Signed With UAE, Kuwait To Buy Oil

BK3003090089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] India will buy $165 million worth of crude and other petroleum products from the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in the financial year beginning on Saturday. An agreement to this effect has been signed in the UAE capital between the Indian Oil Corporation and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company. A couple of days back, India signed a contract with Kuwait to buy $400 million worth of crude and other petroleum products.

Natwar Singh Rejects Area Nonproliferation Plan

BK2903094589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0919 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] New Delhi, March 29 (AFP)—Pakistan suggestions for a regional or bilateral approach to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons are unacceptable, an Indian minister said Wednesday [29 March].

"They have never been acceptable to us as we feel that this issue can only be tackled on a global basis given the global reach of nuclear weapons," Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Kanwar Natwar Singh said in a written reply to a member's query in parliament's upper house.

The statement appeared to have been provoked by Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's advocation of a regional approach to nuclear non-proliferation in an interview published by the INDIAN EXPRESS newspaper here on March 21.

She was quoted as saying that a regional solution was "an inherent ingredient" to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in Asia.

"The reason why we view this matter regionally is because if one country in the sub-continent makes a bomb it will put immeasurable pressure on the other countries to resort to the same strategy," she said. Ms. Bhutto added that "while global non-proliferation is a worthwhile objective to pursue, nonetheless the regional option should not be excluded."

Neither India, which in 1974 exploded what it called a peaceful nuclear device, nor Pakistan is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

New Delhi believes the treaty discriminates in favour of nuclear states. Islamabad has said it would be willing to sign the NPT if India did.

India has frequently charged Pakistan with pursuing a clandestine nuclear weapons programme, a charge that Islamabad has consistently denied.

Mr. Natwar Singh said India believed it would be in the interest of both countries to improve relations, which have been thawing since Ms. Bhutto assumed office in Pakistan last year. Improved relations would lead to a reduction in defence spending and free resources for development, the minister said.

Indo-Pakistan relations have been embittered by three wars since the sub-continent gained independence from British colonial rule in 1947, and other disputes including ownership of the frontier territory of Kashmir.

Gandhi Holds Meeting on Measures for Punjab

BK2903132889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, held a meeting in New Delhi today to review the progress of the implementation of the package of measures for Punjab, which he had announced in Parliament. The meeting was attended by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, and the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram. The principal secretary to the prime minister, Mr B.G. Deshmukh, and the home secretary, Mr Kalyanakrishnan, were also present.

An official spokesman told newsmen later that Mr Gandhi stressed the speedy establishment of district-level development committees in Punjab. The prime minister wanted these committees to have people's representatives. It had been decided that the committees should have certain devolution of powers and should be activated at the earliest.

Sikh Group Calls for Halt in Killing of Hindus

BK2903154889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1528 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Amritsar, India, March 29 (AFP)—A hardline Sikh separatist group Wednesday called for a halt to the killing of Hindus in India's Punjab state, where Sikh militants are fighting for an independent homeland.

The Babbar Khalsa (Sikh Lions) said in a statement issued in this Sikh holy city: "Hindus in Punjab are part and parcel of the Khalsa (Sikh) raj [rule] and they are not to be eliminated (for) being Hindus."

The group's decision, reportedly taken at a secret meeting Monday, marks an important turning point in the bloody campaign for a Sikh homeland called Khalistan (land of the pure) in the northern state.

Sikh separatists, split into some half-a-dozen groups which have often fought each other, have killed hundreds of Hindus in the nearly six-year-old Khalistan struggle which has left more than 300 people dead so far this year.

The Babbar Khalsa reiterated its faith in the establishment of Khalistan and said it would henceforth also use "pen, publicity and people" to achieve its aim.

The Babbar Khalsa, a well-knit group feared for its ruthlessness, said it opposed the "Hindu government" in New Delhi "which is ignoring the rights of the Sikhs and killing innocent Sikhs in false encounters."

Hindus form the overwhelming majority of India's 850 million population, but are in the minority in Punjab.

The other major Sikh groups fighting for Khalistan are the Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), Dashmesh Regiment and Bhindranwale Tigers Force of Khalistan (BTFK).

Babbar Khalsa is reputed to be the most committed of the various groups to the cause of Khalistan.

Second Antarctica Expedition Team Returns

BK2603092089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] The eighth Antarctica expedition team was given a rousing reception on its return to the Mormugao Port at Vasco [in Goa] early this morning. The expedition, which was launched in November last, constructed the second permanent Indian Antarctica Station—Maitri—70 kilometers away from the first station, Dakshin Gangotri. During their 70-day stay on the icy continent, the team, led by Dr Amitabh Sengupta of the National Physics Laboratory, conducted research on mineral resources, oceanography, biology, and studied the effect of Antarctica temperatures on the Indian subcontinent. The expedition has left behind a 43-member team which will return in March next year and brought back the 1987 winter team.

Expedition Leader Comments

BK3003093689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] The setting of the second permanent station in Antarctica has been a significant achievement for the eighth Antarctica expedition that returned last week. According to the leader of the expedition, Dr Amitabh Sengupta, scientists had to work against heavy odds in the icy continent this time. Dr Sengupta said that apart from constructing the second manned station—Maitri—the expedition carried out detailed research on a number of subjects. The results of the studies on natural radio activity and atmospheric pollution has been very encouraging, he said.

Navy Trainer Aircraft Crash Kills Pilot

BK3003090289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] An Islander aircraft of the Indian Navy crashed at Cochin Airport this morning, killing the pilot, Lieutenant Commander Shyam Sunder, who was the sole occupant. The trainer aircraft is reported to have collided with another plane of the same class in the air before crashing. The second plane however landed safely.

Iran

'Source' Denies Arrest of Former UN Ambassador

LD3003122189 Tehran IRNA in English 1218 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA—An informed source at the Foreign Ministry today categorically denied Western news reports that former Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati had been arrested.

In a telephone contact with IRNA, the Foreign Ministry official termed the reports as "quite baseless."

Consul in Geneva Returns Home; Accused of Spying

LD3003095289 Kuwait KUNA in English 0859 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Geneva, March 30 (KUNA)—The Iranian consul-general in Geneva had given up his post and returned home, under an agreement reached between the Swiss and Iranian authorities, following accusations against him of espionage and arms trafficking, it was reported here Thursday.

The Swiss news features agency "BRRI" [expansion unknown] said that Manucher Tale-Masuleh had left for Tehran Wednesday, following extensive contacts between the governments of the two countries about the affair. It dated back to last December, when six Iranian opposition Mojahedin occupied Iran's consultate here.

During their four-hour stay in the building they discovered documents which they read by telephone to colleagues, which appeared to indicate that the consul general had been involved in a variety of activities not compatible with his status, the agency said.

Some of these documents were later written out, translated into French and published.

Although the Iranian official had claimed that the details said to be in the documents either did not exist or were false, the Swiss authorities believed that at least part were true, and this led to the eventual withdrawal of the consul-general, it went on.

Declared Persona Non Grata

LD3003103189 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA—The Swiss consul in Tehran has been identified as persona non grata and asked to leave the Islamic Republic.

The ambassador Henrich Reiman was summoned to the Foreign Ministry Thursday and told that Jacob Schranz must depart within a week for "activities inconsistent with diplomatic norms."

Montazeri's Letter to Khomeyni Led to Ouster

LD3003105289 Kuwait KUNA in English 0940 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 30 (KUNA)—Western diplomatic sources revealed that contents of a secret letter was behind the recent resignation of Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, who was to be a sucessor of Iranian spiritual leader Ayotollah Khomeyni.

Quoted by Kuwaiti daily AL-QABAS, published here today, the same sources elaborated that the message was sent by Montazeri to Khomeyni last week in which he called on the spiritual leader to put an end to the series of executions and to stop the bloodshed in Iran. The sources added that Montazeri asked Khomeyni to at least spare pregnant women and mothers from executions.

He also said in his letter "the world looks at us as if our only concern is to commit murders". And the message also stipulated that "we wanted the politics to serve Islam but we find Islam is serving politics and politicians", the sources told AL-QABAS.

Montazeri, the sources noted, also rejected Khomeyni's call to kill Salman Rushdie, the author of "The Satanic Verses", which heightened the differences between Khomeyni and Montazeri.

The sources said that Khomeyni thought of deposing Montazeri but changed his mind and preferred that he submit his resignation so it would not be explained that there is conflict between moderates and extremists.

The same sources also disclosed that several other figures close to Montazeri were recently relieved from their posts and they include several governors of provinces, and officers in the Army and Revolutionary Guard, in addition to mosques' imams, who were appointed by Montazeri during the past five years.

The sources opined that the resignation of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani and the permanent representative of Iran to the United Nations Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati comes within the framework of the current conflict in Iran, noting that this conflict also threatens other officials including Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The source believe that the extremists won the first round of the conflict against the moderates, but noted that the moderates are still occupying several major posts in the government.

On the other hand, British sources said that the experts committee which is assigned to appoint a successor to Montazeri have two options either they establish a Council of Guardians, or appoint one person who has powerful political and religious influence and enjoys the support of Khomeyni.

In this regard the sources said that one of the major nominees is Ayatollah Golpayegani, who is described as the Iranian revolution's guide.

Press on Montazeri Resignation, State Interests

LD2903183189 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA—The rise and fall of personalities was of no significance in the Islamic Republic as long as Islam itself remained preserved, a daily said Wednesday.

"What is of crucial importance in the Islamic Republic is Islam, not a person or persons," commented KAYHAN on the resignation of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri from the deputy leadership position.

"Therefore the Assembly of Experts will not face any particular problem rising from the resignation of Ayatollah Montazeri and the (Western and Eastern) propaganda will not achieve anything."

The assembly is responsible for selecting the future leader or leadership council of the Islamic Republic.

KAYHAN, Iran's largest selling newspaper, said the ayatollah's distancing from executive tasks and lack of firmness in dealing with opportunist elements laid the grounds for events leading to the resignation.

These elements created a climate which led Montazeri "to raise new issues in letters addressed to officials and in view of the fact that these issues were exploited by foreigners, the officials were practically made impotent despite their desire to act."

On Tuesday, Imam Khomeyni accepted the ayatollah's request to step down and concentrate on his teaching position at the Qom Theology Center.

Also the daily RESALAT in an editorial said the imam had in fact sacrificed his best companion for the best interest of Islam and the Islamic Republic.

The paper's managing director and Majlis Deputy Ayatollah Ahmad Azari Qomi, added that the imam, despite his great admiration for the ayatollah, took an Islamic stand against him "with a world of love and affection for God, Islam and the interests of Muslims."

"This issue proved more than ever that the holder of the position of velayat-e faqih [rule of the jurisconsult] (Imam Khomeyni) considers the (interests) of the Islamic state superior to all principles and sub-principles such as prayer, fasting and pilgrimage."

Commentary Lauds Khomeyni's Decisive Leadership

LD2903202289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1731 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Unattributed commentry]

[Text] The decisive leadership of his holiness the imam at various junctures in the history of the glorious Islamic revolution has always been a guarantor of the stability and continuation of the divine system of the Islamic Republic. The decisiveness of his holiness the imam in giving priority to the interests of the system over everything else not in the interest of Islam and the system has been a critical and decisive factor in the course of the revolution.

In the thick of the revolution, whether before or after the victory of the Islamic revolution, it was the esteemed leader of the revolution who with his decisiveness speeded up the revolutionary movement, leaving behind major dangers. If today in this world filled with tyranny and domination the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran has raised its head, if today as the result of the stability of the Islamic Republic of Iran the whole Islamic world has raised its call against the arrogant world, if arrogant powers have been forced into a subjugated position as the result of the ever-increasing power of Islam, and if the 1,001 conspiracies hatched by them are foiled, all this is due to the decisiveness and undaunted strength of the illustrious leaders of the revolution in tending the seedlings of the Islamic Revolution and bringing them to fruition.

His holiness the imam has always stressed: For me the interests of the system and Islam take priority over everything else. His holiness evaluates even fraternity and sincerity within the context of the interests of Islam and the Muslims.

Regarding the acceptance of Resolution 598, the leader of the revolution graciously said: God knows that were it not for the fact that all of us, with our dignity and honor, should be sacrificed in the interest of Islam and Muslims, I would have never agreed to this; death and martyrdom would have been preferable to me. However, what can be done? All of us should submit to the will of Almighty God. Indeed, this is how the heroic and brave Iranian nation has acted in the past and will act now.

Yes, it is truly this fact of being sacrificed in the interest of Islam and losing oneself in the path of God's pleasure that has protected the product of the Islamic revolution, namely, the fledgling system of the Islmic Republic in the face of all evils. Moreover, this system has guaranteed its continuation, stability, and strength. The progress of this divine system has been ensured by Islam and the decisiveness of the leadership of the revolution in defending Islamic values and interests.

The Muslim Iranian nation, through its love and devotion for the leader of the revolution and the sacrifice of its lives and property, has proved that it is in truth the sincere follower of Islam and the imam. The continuous and tumultuous presence of the brave Iranian people in various stages of the revolution and in the course of defending the interests of the system and Islam has been so sincere and so intense that it has caused amazement and bewilderment among the enemies of Islam.

The heroic Iranian nation, through reliance upon its divine faith and by following its imam, has foiled many plots. In the future, too, it will be precisely the same determination and steadfastness which will ensure the strength of the divine system of the Islamic Republic and world wide propagation of the Islamic revolution—a future in which the defense of Islam and Hezbollah will be the unquestionable goals of the revolution.

Opposition Leader Rajavi Predicts 'Purges'

LD2903130789 Hamburg DPA in German 1204 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Cologne (DPA)—The power struggle in Iran is now being fought at the highest government level and will lead to further "purges." This view was expressed today by Iranian opposition leader Mas'ud Rajavi. The People's Mojahedin have a representative office in Cologne. Yesterday the 65-year-old Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri relinquished the succession to the ageing Iranian revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni.

In a statement Rajavi said: "Montazeri's removal is the most significant political event within the Khomeyni regime since it swallowed the 'poison' of the cease-fire." Khomeyni is now being forced to perform a "major surgical operation" on his government in order to keep the situation under control.

"Montazeri's removal indicates that the endless internal conflicts of the regime have now broken out at the highest level." Montazeri's "removal" will now lead to further "comprehensive purges." So long as Khomeyni remains in power there will "be no peace and no moderation in Iran," the statement said.

'Major Purge' of Montazeri Supporters Expected

TA2903172089 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Political observers in Tehran predict that following the announcement of Ayatollah Montazeri's dismissal, he himself will be placed under total surveillance by government agents. Also, his theology classes will probably be canceled. Moreover, a major purge will be carried out against Ayatollah Montazeri's representatives in universities, institutions, so-called revolutionary organs, government organizations, Friday and congregations imams, Majlis deputies, and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. [passage omitted]

UN's Goulding Meets IRGC Minister Shamkhani

NC3003054289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Mr Goulding, special envoy of the UN secretary general, met with IRGC Minister Mr Shamkhani last night. He was accompanied by Major General Slavko Jovic, commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observers Group.

During this meeting Mr Goulding expressed gratitude for the cooperation between the Iranian forces and the UN forces monitoring the cease-fire, and said that he is preparing a comprehensive report on the way in which the cease-fire is being implemented and on the [word indistinct] on the Iran-Iraq fronts.

Also during this meeting, the IRGC minister listed cases of cease-fire violations and referred to provocations by the Iraqi regime along the border, expressing his hopes that the report which Mr Goulding is to submit to the UN secretary general (?will assist) in the effort to make the Iraqi regime return to international borders and fully implement the articles of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Commentary Urges World-Wide Pressure on Iraq

NC2903072489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0549 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature: "Talk of the Day"]

[Text] According to a UN spokesman, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will initiate a new round of separate talks with the Iranian and Iraqi delegations in the next few days. These talks are to pave the way for the resumption of peace talks and have been deemed essential by the UN secretary general, following obstructionism by the Iraqi regime and its failure to fulfill its obligations with regard to UN Security Council Resolution 598.

According to the previous agreement between Iran and Iraq, the next round of peace talks was to be held in the month of Farvardin [March 21-April 20], but the Iraqi regime continued its former obstructionism and once again reneged on the agreement for convening talks. Thus, it was instrumental in postponing the implementation of the substance of Resolution 598. With such an attitude, the Iraqi regime has in practice brought the talks to a new impasse, one which is in accordance with the desires of the world's oppressive powers and which can prolong the conditions of neither war nor peace and thus maintain a state of continual tension. This would enable them to capitalize on the present situation whenever they wanted to.

However, the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the great Iranian nation will definitely not relinquish their principles under any circumstances whatsoever, and they will never forfeit the values and ideals of the Islamic revolution. Our nation has fought a war for God, and when we made peace it was for God as well. In the past decade, the great Iranian nation has declared its readiness to confront world oppression in all areas in order to preserve the principles of the Islamic revolution, and it has implemented these principles in practice.

Today as well, the Iranian nation is prepared for all kinds of self-sacrifice to safeguard these values, for which it has been striving with selflessness. World oppression experienced this in the last military action by Iraq and in the Mersad operations. Therefore, the entire world, and in particular the United Nations and the UN secretary general, should know that our nation will protect our revolution will all our might and will do whatever is considered necessary on this path.

If the United Nations desires peace in the region, it should exert greater pressure on the Ba'thist Iraqi regime's rulers and induce them to accept Resolution 598 in full. From an assessment of what has taken place in the past, especially the Iraqi regime's obstructionism at various stages of the talks, it appears that greater pressure on the part of the international community is necessary so that the Iraqis bow to the wishes of world public opinion, which is to accept the substance of UN Security Council Resolution 598. This is the UN secretary general's obligation in future rounds of talks and another test for the Iraqi regime. Moreover, it will prove the extent of Iraq's adherence to international norms and regulations or its disbelief in them. In any case, the future will clarify everything.

Velayati on Release of 70 Disabled Iraqi POW's

LD2903170189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] On the occasion of 1 April 1989, the anniversary of the establishment of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran [Islamic Republic Day, the anniversary of the referendum in which the people voted for an Islamic repaublic system], the Islamic Republic of Iran will unilaterally release 70 disabled and injured Iraqi POW's based on humanitarian considerations.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, in announcing this move, said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared for the complete the exchange of POW's within the framework of Resolution 598, and is confident that if the Iraqi regime gives up its obstructionism in the discussions concerning Resolution 598 and cooperates with the UN secretary general in implementing the resolution, the families of the POW's will have their children with them in the near future.

It should be noted that on the occasion of the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution last Bahman [month beginning 21 January 1989], the Islamic Republic of Iran unilaterally released 200 disabled and injured Iraqi POW's.

Velayati To Visit USSR, Meet Shevardnadze

LD3003104189 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will leave for Moscow Union [as received] Thursday—the second by an Iranian foreign minister to the Soviet Union.

The visit follows an invitation from his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze who visited Iran late last month.

Shevardnadze, leading the highest ranking Soviet delegation to Tehran since the 1979 Islamic revolution, was also given an unprecedented audiance with Imam Khomeyni.

Bilateral, regional and international issues would be discussed between Velayati and Soviet officials.

ICO Delegate Interviewed on Meeting in Riyadh

PM2803141589 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 24 Mar 89 p 23

[Unattributed report on interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, head of the delegation to the Islamic Conference Organization meeting, in Riyadh; date not given]

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, head of Iran's delegation to the 18th Islamic Conference Organization session, has said that the conference's resolutions are very good. "We pray to God to bestow success on all those who took part in the conference to achieve the Islamic nation's aspirations and follow the Islamic awakening now prevailing in the Islamic world. We hope to apply the tenets of the glorious Koran to all aspects of life."

On Iran-Iraq discussions at the conference he said: Undoubtedly, the atmosphere was friendly. Discussions were both fruitful and natural.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the future of Iran-Iraq relations?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Taskhiri: That depends on the results of the talks, which we hope will produce good results for both parties; that is, if good intentions prevail. We have announced our willingness to proceed with the peace process until a just, comprehensive peace is achieved and normal relations are established between the two neighboring countries.

AL-HAWADITH: Did you support the resolution calling for granting Afghanistan a seat in the ICO?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Taskhiri: Yes, we supported the resolution. Furthermore, we have supported the Afghan mujahidin revolution from the very beginning. We have backed the heroic Afghan people in their jihad against the invaders, and we have borne many problems in this regard. At present, there are more than 2 million homeless people whose affairs are dealt with by the Islamic revolution. We have supported the Afghan jihad with all our strength. We support the positive step which has been taken, but we hope that all the jihad factions will unite under a broad-based government representing the Muslim people in Afghanistan.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you satisfied with the resolutions concerning common Islamic action against blasphemy of Islam?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Taskhiri: Yes. They are collective, good, and objective. They embody the Islamic nation's unity against its enemies. They declare that the nation is alive and working to achieve its mission in life. We believe that the most important resolution was the conference's announcement that the Islamic nation as a whole rejects "The Satanic Verses" and considers its author an apostate who should be dealt according to the Islamic rules.

AL-HAWADITH: Does that mean that the decree of death against Salman Rushdie will be implemented?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Taskhiri: The rule governing an apostate in Islam is murder. The conference announced clearly that he is an apostate, and the Islamic world deals sternly with those who attack its sanctities and offers a fitting response to them.

AL-HAWADITH: When will relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia be restored?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Taskhiri: There are preliminary introductions which we hope will achieve the desired objectives. Obviously, the delegation's coming here, to the conference, is a positive expression of the natural course of those preparations.

Commentary on Pakistani Protests Against UK

LD2903221189 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] During the visit of the British foreign secretary, Geoffrey Howe, to Pakistan, he has come across anger, indignation and hatred from the Muslim people. Protest rallies have been staged in Islamabad, as well as most cities, and the Muslims denounced the British Government's plots against Islam and the publication of Salman Rushdie's blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses." A group of Pakistan's prominent politicians, along with a number of high-ranking religious scholars and figures delivered at Islamabad Airport a protest letter to Geoffrey Howe wherein they strongly condemned Britain's anti-Islamic policies.

Protests and demonstrations against Britain have been so widespread in Pakistan that Geoffrey Howe has been compelled to cancel a planned and scheduled visit to the city of Peshawar, and cut the duration of his stay in Pakistan by 36 hours. Although it was already expected that Geoffrey Howe's trip to Islamabad would add to the scope of protests against the British Government, the intensity and vastness of the demonstrations seemed to be surprising. Opposition of the people of Pakistan and of the entire Muslim world to the anti-Islamic plots of Britain is quite discernible and it at the same time shows that the tricks of the imperialist powers from the West bloc, which attempted to depict the Salman Rushdie's scandal and the denunciation of his book "The Satanic Verses" has been exclusive to the Islamic Republic of Iran have met with certain defeat.

The Pakistani people's protests go to confirm this reality. These demonstrations also showed that Britain's hostility towards Islam, as the result of Iran's decisive posturing has been exposed to such a degree that the British Government by planning some trips of its officials to Islamic states cannot construe the issue as closed. Decisive reaction of the world's Muslim in denouncing the British plot has left no grounds for doubt that the issue of the sacrilegious book "The Satanic Verses" is a crucial subject for the Islamic world, and the Muslims are not going to so easily forgive the [word indistinct] author and its supporters, contrary to what is imagined by the British Government.

Prime Minister Urges Islamic Banking Policy

LD3003075689 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA—In a meeting with a visiting group of bankers here Wednesday afternoon Premier Hoseyn Musavi urged that banking policies conform with and uphold the policies of a universal Islam.

He said in future years Iran will experience radical changes in the manufacturing industries and recommended that the banking system in Iran adopt policies in the interest of the Islamic system.

The premier commented that the post-revolution banking system in Iran has been production-oriented and committed to the oppressed masses. He expressed hope that the end of the war would also mark the advent of economic prosperity and that the banking system will win further trust of the government.

Among the visiting bankers Wednesday were Governor of the Bank Markazi (Central Bank) of Iran Majid Qasemi.

$4 Billion Loan Reportedly Sought From World Bank

TA2903173289 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Our fellow strugglers have reported that the seven-member delegation which the Islamic Republic regime secretly sent to the United States has been entrusted with the mission of asking for a $4 billion loan from the World Bank. This delegation, which is comprised of Central Bank experts, left for the United States with Ruhollah Khomeyni's personal approval in order to gain U.S. consent for the $4 billion loan from the World Bank. [passage omitted]

Pardoned Political Prisoners 'Imprisoned Again'

TA2903174389 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] We have learned that in the last days, following the gaining of power by the regime's so-called hardline wing under the leadership of Ahmad Khomeyni, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, and Mohammad Kho'iniha, all political prisoners who were pardoned and released during the past 1 and ½ months have been arrested and imprisoned again. Their families have no information whatsoever of their whereabouts and safety.

Drug Traffickers Arrested in Kerman, Tehran

LD2903112289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Two elements responsible for the distribution of narcotics in Kerman were arrested by the guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee [IRC], and 40 kg of narcotics were confiscated.

IRNA reports that the IRC guards also have arrested 8 people responsible for the distribution of narcotics in Tehran. All of them are Afghans residing in Tehran. These people were arrested, and 8 kg of opium and 2 side-arms were confiscated.

Drugs Seized, Traffickers Arrested in Provinces

LD3003120889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Through the efforts and endeavors of the Guards of the Islamic Revolution Committees, aimed at confronting the merchants of death, more than 500 kg of various kinds of narcotics were uncovered in Mazandaran, Khorasan, and Hormozgan Provinces in the past few days.

The Central News Unit reports that 32 narcotics smugglers were arrested in those provinces. Furthermore, a number of vehicles and some weapons and ammunition were discovered and confiscated. The offenders were handed over to the judicial officials, along with the seized items.

Nepal

'Emergency Measures' To Counter Shortages

BK3003110289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1047 GMT 30 Mar 89

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, March 30 (AFP)—The government has taken emergency measures to counter shortages of fuel, medicine and other essential goods caused by a week-old trade suspension by India, officials said here Thursday.

The authorities have cut electricity rates and fuel-wood prices by 15 and 25 percent to alleviate the burden on consumers who have seen gasoline prices and transport fares sky-rocket due to shortages of petroleum products.

India has held up goods bound for Nepal across their common frontier since the expiry on March 23 of trade and transit treaties signed by the two countries in 1978 and extended twice last year. The two sides disagree on the shape of future accords.

A Nepalese Ministry of Commerce spokesman said supplies of essential goods such as medicine, medical equipment, salt, sugar, molasses, coconut oil, dried coconut meat and baby food had actually been blocked since March 19, although the treaties had not yet expired. India held up these goods even though it had earlier announced that supplies would continue after March 23, the spokesman said.

Nepal has decided to counter this by allowing direct imports of 200 items of medicine from countries including Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, the European Economic Community and the United States, official sources said.

A senior Finance Ministry official said the government had made arrangments for the issuing of import licenses and the release of foreign exchange.

The government has also decided to allow imports from overseas of cotton textiles, heavy vehicles and heavy construction equipment, which were previously imported from India, the sources said. They said custom duties on heavy vehicles and equipment have been lowered to encourage importers.

(In New Delhi, an Indian spokesman Thursday denied as "absolutely baseless" allegations that India had stopped medicines from getting through to Nepal.

(But Nepal's ambassador to India, Binda Shah, said: "It is a fact that nothing has moved since March 23. Not even... medicines and other essential commodities which the Government of India had promised would be allowed to go through."

(She said the Nepalese Government had not lodged any complaint, but brought the situation to the attention of the Indian authorities.

("They (Indians) say they have sent directives that it (medicines) should not be stopped. But it has been stopped," she said.)

Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya lodged a protest Tuesday with the Indian ambassador here, Arbinda Ramchandra Deo, over the alleged holding up of petroleum products governed by a separate bilateral agreement.

He said the accord between the two countries' state-run oil corporations was due to expire this Friday and supplies should continue until then.

(But the Indian spokesman in New Delhi said: "On petroleum, we are fully aware that the supplies are covered by a separate agreement and these were not curtailed on March 23.")

Efforts by the government to guarantee supplies of fuel-wood to various districts including Kathmandu have been hampered by a shortage of diesel, which has slowed the movement of delivery trucks, informed sources said.

Mr. Upadhyaya said coal and other goods cleared by customs before March 23 were stuck in Indian Railway warehouses and should be allowed to reach Nepal.

India allowed two truckloads of oranges and onions into Nepal Thursday, officials said, adding that it was a sign of improvement in the stalemate.

India has rejected a Nepalese proposal that the expired trade and transit treaties be extended again pending negotiations on a new accord, saying that it gave Kathmandu more than a year's notice of the expiry of the treaties.

India has called for a unified treaty which would resolve continuing differences on trade and transit, while Kathmandu wants separate accords. New Delhi has said that it is up to Nepal to move quickly and get talks rolling.

("There is no question of bullying them," an official Indian spokesman said, adding that while India as the bigger nation had responsibilities towards Nepal, it also expected Kathmandu to respect New Delhi's "sensitivities.")

Mr. Upadhyaya has written to his Indian counterpart suggesting that they fix a date for talks on a new accord under an Indo-Nepalese joint commission.

India was angered by the imposition last year of additional customs duties by Nepal on Indian goods, making them uncompetitive, and the reported reduction of duties on imports from other countries, notably China.

TV Map Shows Part of Jammu, Kashmir in Pakistan

BK2903132389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] India has taken up with Nepal the issue of Nepalese television showing a map depicting some parts of Jammu and Kashmir belonging to Pakistan. The map was telecast on the 3d of March during a program on the national day of Pakistan and on 2 subsequent days.

Our Kathmandu correspondent, quoting Indian Embassy sources, reports that the Indian ambassador, Mr A.R. Deo, has personally taken up the matter with the Nepalese foreign minister.

Pakistan

Bhutto Interviewed on Rushdie, Nuclear Energy

AU2603190589 Vienna DER STANDARD ("Album" supplement) in German 25 Mar 89 pp 1-2

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by Karan Thapar: "Between Wrath and Understanding"; date and place not given]

[Text] DER STANDARD: Mrs Prime Minister, as a modern and liberal politician, what was your reaction to Ayatollah Khomeyni's death sentence on Salman Rushdie?

Bhutto: I am not interested in controversy, with Iran or any other country, over statements made by the leaders of these countries. However, as far as Pakistan is concerned, the situation is such that this problem has been played up by fundamentalists who did not get very far with their former reservations over having a woman as the head of a state.

DER STANDARD: As prime minister, do you think that a head of state should pass a death sentence on a person of a different nationality?

Bhutto: It is the first duty of a government to protect the life and freedom of its citizens. There were two things that have to be taken into account with regard to Rushdie's book. On the one hand, there is the right to freely express one's opinion; on the other hand, there are the lives and the freedom of the people. We have banned the book because we thought this was the right decision in the sense of law and order. However, we also felt that our step served the state, because in religious matters it is important not to promote acts of blasphemy. However, I would like to add something: I do not know how much the Muslims can capitalize on the Rushdie affair. If one repeats a blasphemy, one commits another act of blasphemy, and every time the fundamentalists raise this question, they commit this blasphemous act anew, by continually increasing the popularity of Rushdie's novel and its contents.

DER STANDARD: Let me put the question differently: Do you support the death sentence, or do you think that the ayatollah should have been more careful?

Bhutto: I cannot say anything in this respect, because whatever I say will be interpreted as the statement or act by the Pakistani Government.

DER STANDARD: As you refuse to criticize this sentence, do you think that the Islamic Conference Organization's decision not to support it was right?

Bhutto: There are many Shi'ite Muslims in Pakistan, but even outside this section of the population this topic has been highly emotionalized. Iran is our neighbor and we want to have good relations with our neighbors. In this interview I can only speak for Pakistan, but I do not believe that it is good to try to drive me into a direct confrontation with the leaders of other nations.

DER STANDARD: As a person you are in a unique situation. You are a Muslim who has been able to enjoy a Western education, and you are therefore at home in two worlds. Do you understand the terror and disgust this sentence has caused in the Western world?

Bhutto: I can see that the death sentence is a reason for your deep concern, and I accept and understand that this is an important question for England, since the sentence affects one of its citizens. However, first every government has to deal with its own citizens. It would be better if we concentrated on questions that concern the citizens of Pakistan.

DER STANDARD: I will put the question the other way around. Do you think that the West has made a mistake by failing to understand and accept the disgust Rushdie's book has caused in the Muslim world?

Bhutto: I think that playing with others' feelings has always been a source of wrath. From my own experience I can say that I became very upset when I read Rushdie's book "Shame." When the next book came out it hurt the religious feelings of many people. In India and Pakistan for example, some 30 people died, which is proof of the strong feelings that this book caused. This is why I think that one must understand that blasphemy creates pain, and that the believers have to be protected, and also, that they have the right to protest against it.

DER STANDARD: In many commentaries in the Western media one sees that after you were elected prime minister you had to make many concessions.

Bhutto: I would like to get this straight. Since we have come to power there has been no end to speculation about concessions. The Pakistan People's Party has come to power through the will of the people of Pakistan. We have had a hard fight and we have had to pay a high price for democratic values and the Constitution. Our party emerged as the biggest individual party from the last elections. If the elections were fair, then I believe there is no reason to have any doubts about our majority.

The compromises we had to agree to were minimal and necessary for the sake of continuity and our principles. Take for example the fact that Sahabzada Yaqub Khan remained in office as foreign minister. This was not a price we had to pay for power, but a signal to the friends of Pakistan who were afraid that Pakistan might end up in chaos and who feared that proper government work would become impossible after these dramatic changes and the change in government that followed the death of Ziaul Haq.

DER STANDARD: The Islamic Conference Organization, of which your government is a member, has recently invited the Afghan mujahidin to join this organization. Does this mean that Pakistan officially and formally recognizes the government of the mujahidin?

Bhutto: I do not think that this is tantamount to formal recognition. Pakistan has not formally recognized the interim government. This is still in undecided. We have friendly feelings toward the Afghan Government. We have found out that it is a moderate government which, despite opposite claims, has reached a remarkable unity. This unity should be welcomed and strengthened.

DER STANDARD: There were repeated accusations last week from the USSR that Pakistani soldiers and generals were fighting with the mujahidin in Afghanistan. What is your comment on that?

Bhutto: Not a single Pakistani soldier has crossed the border or will cross it. This is an Afghan war and we do not want to be involved in an Afghan civil war. We will do everything we can to promote peace there.

DER STANDARD: What is the reason for this accusation, in your opinion? Why does Vorontsov make such severe accusations?

Bhutto: I think that he has his reasons, but they are not based on facts. They are rather an indication of the weak position of the Kabul regime. They know that it will not be easy for them to keep their position, and therefore they are trying to put the blame on someone else.

DER STANDARD: Let us talk about the superpowers now. Last month you met President Bush in Tokyo. Are you sure that Pakistan will continue to receive as much U.S. support as it has so far, now that the USSR has withdrawn its troops from Afghanistan, and thus decreased Pakistan's strategic importance?

Bhutto: Pakistan is strategically importance because of its geographical position on the Gulf and the Indian Ocean. I think that this has been recognized for as long as Pakistan has existed. However, I would say that Pakistan is a young democracy and that the success of this democracy is the success of all those who believe in freedom. This is why I hope that the Senate and Congress will take a favorable view of the support for Pakistan in their hearings.

DER STANDARD: Much will certainly depend on Pakistan's attitude on the question of nuclear weapons. Is your country able to produce nuclear weapons?

Bhutto: I think one should not look at this question from the point of view of the available know-how, but from the position of objectives and policy. Pakistan does not believe in the passing on of nuclear technology. We want to free our country and the entire Southeast Asian region from the nuclear arms race. This is why we do not feel the need to build a nuclear bomb. However, we reserve for ourselves the right to have our own research and energy programs.

DER STANDARD: Thus, you are optimistic that the U.S. Government will confirm that Pakistan is not building the bomb—a precondition for passing the support for 1990.

Bhutto: We have informed the U.S. Government of our policy, and I am sure that the United States knows about it from its own independent sources of information, anyway. The Americans know that Pakistan is a proud, independent, and sovereign nation, and that Pakistan will not accept any infringement of its sovereignty. Yet, it is not one of the aims of Pakistan's Government to build a nuclear bomb—a fact which any independent observer will confirm.

DER STANDARD: How are your relations with Moscow? Before you came to power, you were very concerned about having friendly relations with Moscow. What has happened over the past 3 and ½ months in this respect?

Bhutto: We continue to be concerned about having good relations with Moscow, and we believe that the Soviet troop withdrawal helps this situation. Our foreign minister has traveled to Moscow for talks. I have held talks with leading USSR politicians in Islamabad, and we will continue on this road.

DER STANDARD: Before you came to power you expressed your interest in Mikhail Gorbachev and his reform plans. As a politician, are you one of his admirers?

Bhutto: I think that he has shown much courage by taking these great steps toward restructuring the Soviet economy. Answers are not always easy to come by, and all those who are used to the status quo are afraid of changes. However, he had the courage to tackle the restructuring of society, a fact which I admire. I wish for Pakistan that the new government will make courageous decisions concerning the fundamental questions of the economy of Pakistan, and will not try to seek simple answers that can be nothing but short-term solutions.

DER STANDARD: Let us now turn to the Pakistani Army and its relationship with your government. Before you became prime minister you pledged to treat this institution most carefully. Yet, how long can a democratic government tolerate such a powerful army, which receives almost 45 percent of the budget?

Bhutto: The Army plays a most valuable role for the transition to democracy, and I think that this has to be understood and appreciated. The present leaders of the Armed Forces have given their full support to the democratic order. This is a good sign for the future of Pakistan.

I would like to add that the dimension of the Pakistani Army corresponds to our situation in terms of security policy, and as long as this situation does not improve, the dimension of our Army will remain a necessity. Whether one likes it nor not, it is of essential importance to the interest of the state. One must not forget that a large army is not necessarily important for the prevention of a coup d'etat. There are countries that have only two tanks and have managed to prevent a coup d'etat.

DER STANDARD: Does this mean that in the near future there will be no reductions in the enormous military budget?

Bhutto: Relations between the Armed Forces and the civilian government are characterized by good, mutual understanding and an excellent working relationship. The restrictions that are imposed on the Armed Forces and the civilian government are related to Pakistan's security interests. As long as the situation in terms of security policy does not improve, it is difficult for any nation to take a step that might endanger security, such as a reduction of the military budget would. We would welcome any talks on this subject, because we are neither interested in the arms race nor in having armed forces that are too powerful. Nevertheless, I believe that the situation of our security policy dictates the need and the necessity of armed forces and their size.

DER STANDARD: My last question: You have inherited an economic situation with a massive budget deficit, high inflation, bankrupt finances, and a decreasing readiness to save. What will you do about all this?

Bhutto: First of all, we know that we have to live within our budget. We have tried to achieve this by expressing our intention to reduce the budget deficit. We have neither resorted to deficit financing nor to expansive monetary policy. Second, we have initiated a privatization phase that enables us to build up our own resources. Third, we have established investment banks that are to support our own resources. We are also trying to find incentives for the private sector, and to create private initiative. The tax authorities have already informed the government that incomes have started to rise due to the government's non-intervention policy.

We are also considering extending the tax basis within Pakistan. You will find that with these concerted measures—privatization, reform of the tax system, extending the tax basis, and avoiding deficit financing—the economy will hopefully get back on the right track again. This will neither be a simple nor a fast process, and the entire country will have to contribute. The problems that we have inherited from Ziaul Haq are very serious and require sacrifices and the hard work of all.

Air Force Chief Leaves on Visit to PRC 30 Mar

BK3003120989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] The chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah, left Karachi today on an official visit to the People's Republic of China. The 8-day visit has been undertaken at the invitation of the commander, People's Liberation Army, Air Force [as heard].

Commentary Praises Results of Howe Visit, Talks

BK2903074689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] The British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's current visit to Pakistan is particularly significant as it is the first high-level visit from the United Kingdom since the new popularly-elected government took office in Pakistan. Sir Geoffrey Howe has conveyed important messages from his government to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and has made a number of policy statements that are of great interest to this country.

The British foreign secretary has expressed full support of his country to the democratic process which has now been fully restored in Pakistan. He [words indistinct] to have conveyed his country's appreciation of the role that

Pakistan has played in supporting the cause of the Afghan freedom fighters. He also met the Afghan interim president, Professor Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, and exchanged views with him on the Afghanistan situation. His meeting with Mojaddedi would undoubtedly be seen as signifying solidarity with the mujahidin in their relentless struggle to liberate their homeland.

Several other issues, including Pakistan's reentry into Commonwealth, the British economic assistance to Pakistan, problems of Pakistanis living in Britain, and Salman Rushdie's blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses," came under discussion when Sir Geoffrey Howe met the prime minister. It is gratifying to note that the talks were conducted in a cordial atmosphere and both leaders laid stress on close and friendly relations and mutual cooperation between the two countries. The British minister stressed that Pakistan enjoyed the cardinal position in Britain's foreign policy and international relations. He described the ties between the two states as special relations.

It is also a matter of satisfaction that the visiting minister intimated to the prime minister that the British Government did not underestimate the indignation felt by the Islamic world on the publication of Rushdie's ill-famous book.

On Ms Benazir Bhutto's successful leadership of the struggle for the restoration of democracy, Sir Geoffrey was particularly eloquent. He observed that she, in fact, symbolizes the struggle and the people and the Government of Great Britain shared her perceptions and experiences she had to undergo during the struggle. Even [words indistinct] as the colonial ruler of South Asian subcontinent, the relation between Pakistan and United Kingdom ever since Pakistan's emergence as an independent state has been very friendly. Great Britain and Pakistan's views on important international issues generally converge, and they have extended each other mutual support while maintaining their principled stands.

During the last 10 years, on Afghanistan, which has been Pakistan's major foreign policy concern, Britain has always displayed a total identity of views with Pakistan and has provided generous assistance to the Afghan refugees on humanitarian basis. Sir Geoffrey Howe's present visit to Pakistan would indeed reinforce the close relation between the two countries and further strengthen the traditional bonds of friendship that exists between the peoples of the two countries.

Sri Lanka

Aid Sought for 1 Million Drought-Stricken People

BK3003113989 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] The cabinet spokesman, minister of foreign affairs, and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratna, briefed newsmen on cabinet decisions yesterday. He said that the dependents of all public servants, including teachers, who resigned to contest the parliamentary general elections and provincial council elections and who were killed while they were candidates, will be entitled to the salary of the deceased public servants up to retirement. They will receive pension benefits thereafter.

Mr Wijeratna said that the government has decided to issue 10,000 tons of rice to be distributed among the farmers affected by the present drought in the Anuradhapura District. Red Cross has also gone there to assist them. He also said that it was brought to the notice of the cabinet that the price of chili was too high. The government expects prices to come down as 4,500 tons of chilies will be unloaded and issued to the public by the 1st of April.

Meanwhile, a special team of officials and representatives of nongovernmental organizations, including the World Food Program, toured the drought-stricken areas of the Northern and Northeastern Provinces. The government has appealed for foreign assistance to give further relief to an estimated 1 million people affected by the drought.

Security Forces Placed on 'Maximum Alert'

BK3003031889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, security forces were put on maximum alert following intelligence reports of a possible intensification of JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] extremist violence from next week. An official spokesman in Colombo said leave to security and police personnel has been canceled and schools ordered to begin holidays from tomorrow, a week ahead of schedule.

Troops Raid Hideout, Kill 7

BK3003051589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0509 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Colombo, March 30 (AFP)—Troops killed seven anti-government Sinhalese militants and recovered weapons and ammunition in a fresh offensive in north-central Sri Lanka, officials here said Thursday.

Soldiers raided a Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) hideout in Pihimbiyagollewa village in Anuradhapura District late Wednesday, killing seven militants in a fierce gunbattle, officials said.

"We have captured a large amount of weapons and ammunition. There were no serious casualties among the troops," a defence official here said.

He said JVP activists ambushed the vehicle of a ruling United National Party (UNP) politician in nearby Tissawewa village hours after the military raid.

The politician was seriously wounded as gunmen sprayed their vehicle with automatic fire. Two of his bodyguards and his driver were missing, the defence official said, adding that a search had been mounted to look for them.

The latest violence came as Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne was speaking at a press conference here just before midnight Wednesday. Mr. Wijeratne said security forces had been placed on maximum alert ahead of a planned JVP strike.

Police Arrest 20 'Subversive' Murder Suspects

BK2703101889 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0951 GMT 27 Mar 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 27 Mar (LANKAPUVATH)—Following the arrest of a 27-year-old man described by police as Sri Lanka's No. 1 subversive killer, who allegedly confessed to 43 political slayings, the police have apprehended 20 more subversive murder suspects. They include a man police describe as the principal subversive hit man in Moratuwa, a suburb south of Colombo. Police told LANKAPUVATH that 10 of the suspects arrested were allegedly involved in the attacks on the Bambalapitiya police station in Colombo South, Mattakuliya police post in Colombo North and the police station at Ragama, 15 kilometres north of Colombo this year.

Among those arrested other than the suspect who had allegedly confessed to 43 slayings, including those of United National Party (UNP) General Secretary Nandalal Fernando, former Colombo University Vice Chancellor Professor Stanley Wijesundera and United Socialist Alliance (USA) leader and popular film star Vijaya Kumaranatunge, are the alleged killers of a woman, who supplies home cooked meals, her son and daughter at Pettah, and a trader "Kalu Malli," a trader at the "World Market" in Pettah, Mervyn Fernando, a UNP trade unionist, and Sri Lanka Transport Board employee of Moratuwa, a railway locomotive driver and a railway worker of Maligawatte, who was a member of the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya (JSS), UNP trade union.

Two railway station masters and a man alleged to be a monk have been arrested in connection with the blasting of the rail track at Orugodawatte in Colombo North. Police said they were in search of a student of a leading Colombo school who was alleged to have participated in the attack on the Ragama police station in which two of the suspects arrested have allegedly confessed to and described their role in the attack. The youth is missing from his home since the subversives raid on the Ragama police station in January, police said. Police are also in search of a university student who had allegedly accompanied Professor Wijesundera's killer to the victim's office at college house in the University of Colombo.

Security Sources Say JVP Suspected in Killings

BK2903051289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 15 people, including a policeman, have been killed in separate incidents in the central and southern parts of the island.

Security sources in Colombo said that a policeman was shot dead by suspected JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] extremists in (Mulatsinhala), and four bullet-ridden bodies, also of JVP extremists, were found at (Kalkergama) in Matale in the North Central Province yesterday. [sentence as heard]

Three other bodies of suspected JVP activists were also found in Punanai area in the same province. The remaining killings have been reported from Nallur, Embilipitiya, (Bhoova) and Polonnaruwa areas, the sources added.

Indian Forces Recover Detonators, Explosives

BK2803121189 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1133 GMT 28 Mar 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 28 Mar (LANKAPUVATH)—The IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] has recovered 48 detonators, one mortar bomb, one grenade and five kgs of explosive materials. Four suspected terrorists were also rounded up in Puloly south, Jaffna, yesterday, official sources told LANKAPUVATH.

Meanwhile, in an operation at Velvettiturai on the same day, the IPKF recovered 15 detonators, two claymore mines and five kgs of explosives.

At Nallur, LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists killed a woman, Arul Rani, and a man named Partiban.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, economic, military, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed, with personal and place names rendered in accordance with FBIS transliteration style.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Soviet Union, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735, or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.